■ SPORTS / A21

White Sox a win away from 1st World Series title in 88 years

■ BUSINESS / B1

$3B in OFW remittances coursed thru informal channels, not banks

■ ACROSS / A15

P90-M bond scam discovered in Clark eco-zone

■ NEWS / A2

Noli: I'm not an option; I'm the successor

Bro. Mike's son-in-law named IBC-13 president

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE INNER CIRCLE of El Shaddai leader Bro. Mike Velarde is the object of government largesse.

Mark Allan Jay Yambao, the husband of Velarde's only daughter, has been appointed president and chief executive officer of the se-

BRO. MIKE'S/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Palace aide mocks 'people's court,' tears notice to pieces

By Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Fe Zamora

ONE GIMMICKRY DEserves another, in the view of the Palace.

After dismissing the Citizens' Congress for

PALACE/ A6

MAS MA-DRAMA ANG GIMIK NITO!

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Thursday, October 27, 2005 ★★ 4 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 321 P18
website: www.inq7.net

'Festival of killings' in CL condemned

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL/ JESS YUSON

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS MAN? Ex-Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante gives the Senate the slip for the third time.

2 ex-agri execs evade Senate probe

By Nikko Dizon and TJ Burgonio

TWO FORMER EXECUTIVES OF the Department of Agriculture yesterday left the country hours before a scheduled Senate hearing on the alleged mismanagement of a multimillion-peso fertilizer fund during the 2004 elections for which they have been summoned to attend.

Former Agriculture Secretary Luis "Cito" Lorenzo Jr. left for Hong Kong, while former Agriculture Undersecretary for Finance Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante left for Los Angeles, according to sources at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia).

Lorenzo and Bolante were invited to the Senate hearing to shed light on allegations that the

2 EX-AGRI/ A8

GMA asks opposition: Join gov't of nat'l unity

By Christine O. Avendaño

CEBU CITY—IN A MOVE DEscribed by a Palace official as unprecedented, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday called on the opposition to join her in establishing a government of national unity and put an end to the current political crisis.

She stressed that she was not proposing "power-sharing" but "sharing public leadership and responsibility for the common good."

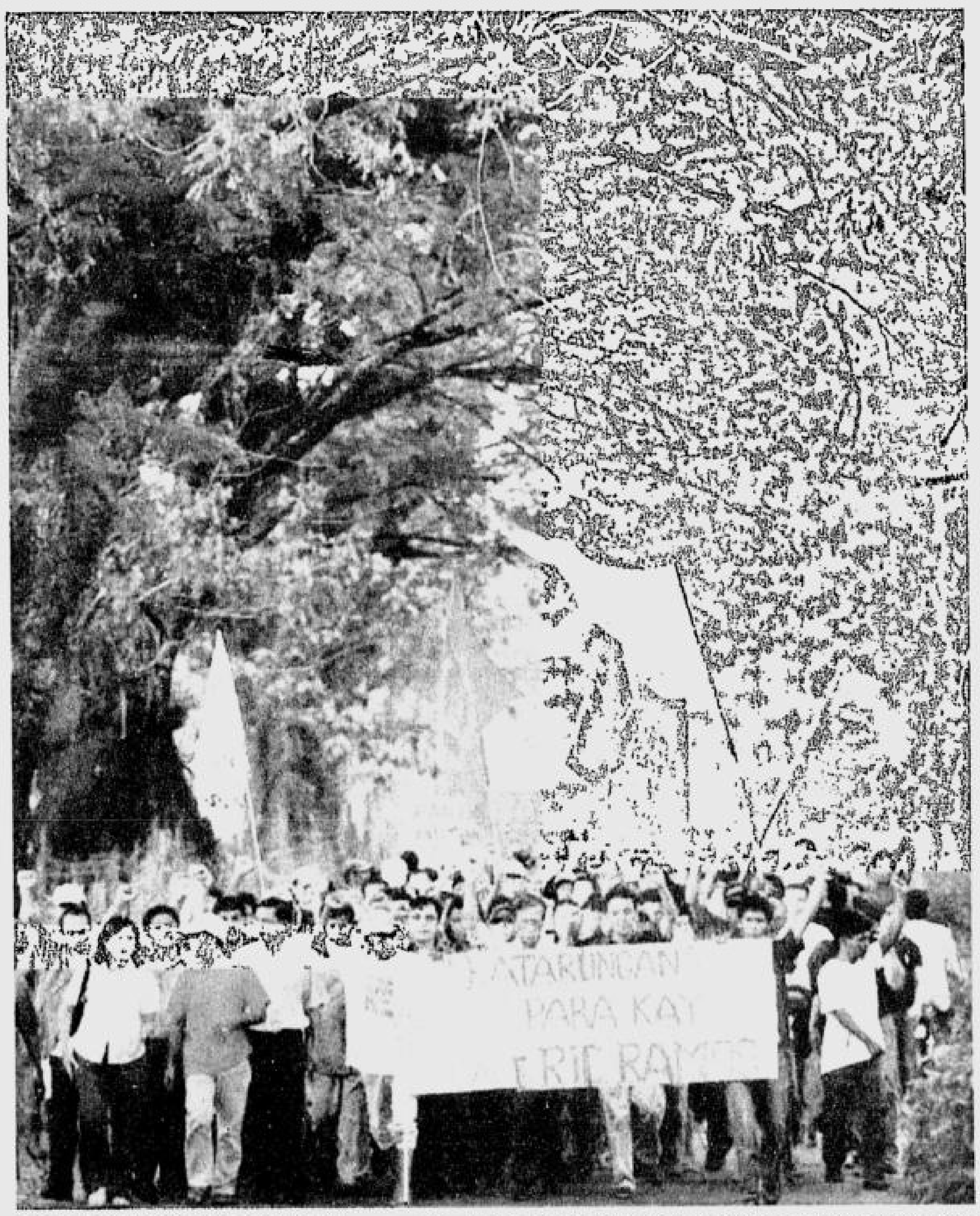
Environment Secretary Michael Defensor said Ms Arroyo's proposal entailed appointing "responsible" opposition members to the Cabinet. He said he had mentioned House Minority Leader Francis Escudero to the President and that the lawmaker had agreed to the proposal and join the government "at the proper time."

"I hope this is the proper time," Defensor said.

Four months into the worst political crisis to hit her administration, Ms Arroyo said she was making the offer in order to "strengthen the republic."

"The proposal of government of national unity is not meant to please the opposition but to consolidate the nation behind our

GMA ASKS/ A6


KATARUNGAN PARA KAY ERIC RAMOS

THE MARCH FOR JUSTICE, for Ric Ramos, president of the Central Azucarera de Tarlac labor union at Hacienda Luisita, ends in Barangay Mapalacsiao, Tarlac City, where the remains of the slain labor leader lie. JOAN BONDOC

Four more shot dead in 48 hours in C. Luzon

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk
Luige A. del Puerto and Philip C. Tubeza

GUNMEN SHOT DEAD two militant peasant leaders and two other men over a 48-hour period in Tarlac and Pampanga in what an activist described as a continuing "festival of killings" in the region.

Ricardo Ramos, 47, president of the Central Azucarera de Tarlac Labor Union (Catlu), was shot and killed on Tuesday while drinking with friends in his backyard in Barangay Mapalacsiao five hours after the union received at least P8 million from the Hacienda Luisita Inc. as settlement for back wages.

The 5,000-hectare hacienda in Tarlac is owned by the family of former President Corazon Aquino.

Catlu members walked off their jobs on Nov. 6 last year, simultaneously with the strike staged by 5,000 farm workers belonging to the United Luisita

FESTIVAL/ A8

DOH: Bird flu not 'if' but 'when'; 21 hospitals readied

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH has upgraded 21 hospitals in preparation for an imminent bird flu outbreak, saying this is no longer a question of if but when it will strike.

Patients will be referred primarily to the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) in Muntinlupa, San Lazaro Hospital in Manila, Lung Center of the Philippines in Quezon City, Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center in Cebu City, and the Davao Medical Center in Davao City.

The hospitals, along with 16 regional medical centers, are equipped with isolation rooms, antiflu drugs and protective gears.

The RITM has its own negative pressure rooms which were used to contain victims of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) more than two years ago.

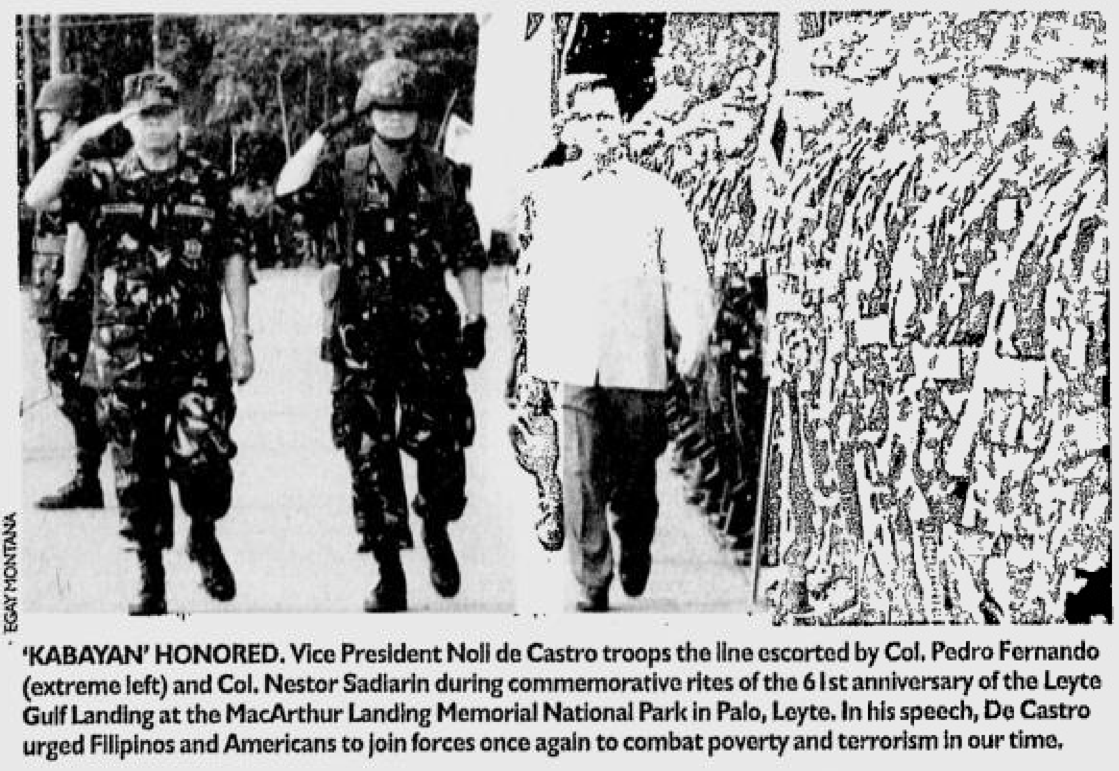
Health Secretary Francisco Duque III yesterday told a news briefing that these hospitals had the capability to manage avian influenza cases.

The government has stepped up an awareness campaign on bird flu as the virus continues to spread from Asia to Europe. As of yesterday, it has killed at least 62 people, mostly in Vietnam and Thailand.

Asked how near bird flu was to the Philippines, Duque replied: "It's very near. It is only a matter of time. It is not a question of 'if' but 'when.'"

Duque noted that the virus wreaked the biggest havoc in neighboring countries like Vietnam, Indonesia and Cambodia. Worse, he said, the period be-

DOH/ A6



EGAY MONTANA

'KABAYAN' HONORED. Vice President Noli de Castro troops the line escorted by Col. Pedro Fernando (extreme left) and Col. Nestor Sadiarin during commemorative rites of the 61st anniversary of the Leyte Gulf Landing at the MacArthur Landing Memorial National Park in Palo, Leyte. In his speech, De Castro urged Filipinos and Americans to join forces once again to combat poverty and terrorism in our time.

Senate releases Gonzales but he's not off the hook

By TJ Burgonio

THE SENATE IS LETTING GO OF National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales for now, but he isn't entirely off the hook.

After over a month of locking horns with Malacañang, the Senate last night ordered the release of the ailing Gonzales to allow him to seek medical treatment, possibly abroad.

Senate President Franklin Drilon issued the order to the sergeant-at-arms after the senators unanimously approved the blue ribbon committee's interim report, which declared Gonzales' release from its custody on humanitarian grounds.

However, the committee maintained that Gonzales should be held accountable for entering into an "illegal contract" with the Baltimore-based lobby firm Venable LLP to tap American funding for President Macapagal-Arroyo's project to amend the Philippine Constitution.

The committee said that the Venable agreement violated the Constitution and the Omnibus Election Code as "it authorizes the lobby with the US Congress for funds to support" Charter change. The Constitution and Election Code prohibit interference in the country's suffrage and condemn it, the panel said.

It noted that Gonzales was neither vested under any law to sign

SENATE/ A8

OFW cash boosts peso to 54.96

By Doris C. Dumlao
Business

STRONG REMITTANCE INflows from overseas Filipino workers and an improving economy yesterday boosted the peso to a new four-month high against the US dollar despite the country's prolonged political impasse.

The peso breached the psychological 54:$1 barrier, hitting an intra-day high of 54.96 before closing 55.005 at the Philippine Dealing System. It was the peso's strongest finish since June 9.

The local currency gained another 25.5 centavos from Tuesday's closing rate of 55.26 against the greenback. Value traded reached $559 million.

"The sustained increase in remittances in the fourth quarter will support the value of the peso," Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Armando Tetangco told the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines

OFW CASH/ A6

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northeastern Luzon will be mostly cloudy with rains. Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will be cloudy with scattered rains and thunderstorms. The eastern sections of Visayas and Mindanao will have rains. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/10/27/05 SOURCE PAGASA

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Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Top terror suspect falls

By Luige A. del Puerto

GOVERNMENT SECURITY forces have captured the leader of an extremist group which had allegedly been planning a wave of bombings in Metro Manila, in a raid in Zamboanga City, the military announced yesterday.

Police and military intelligence officials described the arrest of Hilarion del Rosario Santos, alias Ahmed Santos or Abu Lakay, along with at least five other people, as a "big blow" to the regional terrorist network Jemaah Islamiyah and its local affiliate, the Abu Sayyaf Group.

The authorities have said that the JI and ASG had been using Santos' band of Islamic converts, who mostly come from Luzon and style themselves as the Rajah Solaiman Movement, or RSM, to plan and, when possible, carry out bombings in the capital.

While the Abu Sayyaf had claimed responsibility for the sinking of an interisland ship that killed more that 100 people last year, some intelligence reports say the RSM was also involved in the attack.

SOUTHERN COMMAND chief Lt. Gen. Edilberto Adan points to Hilarion del Rosario Santos, alias Ahmed Santos or Abu Lakay, during presentation to media after his arrest.

TROY MALCOLM/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Big blow

"It's a big blow for any organization to lose its leader," Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga told the Inquirer at Camp Aguinaldo. "So it is a big accomplishment of the Armed Forces and we hope there will be follow-up operations that will bring the same good results."

A senior intelligence officer who asked not to be identified told the Inquirer that the authorities have yet to locate the group's hideout in Metro Manila and they were quite concerned because the group was reported to be in possession of some 400 kilograms of bomb materials.

In March, the police and military seized 600 kilos of explosives in an apartment in Quezon City, and declared that they had thwarted a major bombing attempt in Metro Manila. They had been tracking down Santos since then.

Chief Supt. Prospero Noble, head of the Region 9 Police, said an elite team of policemen and military agents stormed the house of a Malik Alimudin on San Jose Road, Zamboanga City at 11:45 p.m. Tuesday.

Armed with an arrest warrant, the raiding team nabbed Santos and five others who were identified as Narumruja Amdal Ibba, Santos' wife, his son Ahman Islam Santos, Malik Alimuddin, Sakina Yaquim and Yasser Amdal. The group, apparently asleep at the time, put up no resistance, police said.

They yielded a map of Metro Manila, 49 rounds of an anti-tank gun, six blasting caps, a baby armalite, three M16 rifle magazines, ammunition bandoleers, electrical tools, computers and documents, Noble said.

Santos, who was to be flown to Manila yesterday afternoon, walked with a limp and appeared to be in a daze when Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Edilberto Adan presented him to reporters in Zamboanga City. He was not allowed to talk to reporters, however.

Up to something

"He's still undergoing tactical interrogation. We believed the group was up to something big during the long holiday," Adan said, referring to next week's holidays to mark the Roman Catholic All Saints Day and the end of Ramadan for Muslims.

Adan said another person in the hideout, reportedly a Sulu-based policeman identified as PO3 Sam Hamdol, managed to escape.

Supt. Henry Lozanes, Zamboanga City police director, said investigators wanted to know if Santos, who faces kidnapping charges before the Pasig Trial Court, had formed terrorist cells in Zamboanga or nearby provinces and cities.

Adan said intelligence reports indicate Santos' group has cells in Northern Luzon, Central Luzon, Metro Manila, the Bicol Region and Southern Tagalog.

"We are conducting more interrogation (on the suspects) to determine the extent of their organizing and recruitment here," he said.

Santos was born in Quezon City in 1971, and was raised in Caloocan City and Anda, Pangasinan, according to a dossier on him obtained by the Inquirer.

He studied computer programming and worked in Saudi Arabia in 1991. On his return to the Philippines, Santos established a madrasah or Islamic school in Anda town.

Apart from being the acknowledged leader of the RSM, Santos is described in the dossier as a member of two organizations called Fi-Sabilillah Daw'ah and Media Foundation Incorporated.

In May 2002, the police cracked down on the RSM and arrested several of its members, who were suspected of undergoing terrorist training in a religious school in Pangasinan. Police lost track of them, however, after they were set free on bail.

Santos' brother, Tyrone "Daud" Santos, was arrested by military agents in connection with the 600 kilos of bomb materials uncovered early this year. He too posted bail and has since disappeared.

Early this year, the police disclosed that Abu Solaiman had tasked Santos, together with ASG bomb experts Amilhamja Ajijul, Abu Tarik, Abu Said, Abu Haisham and Abu Omar, and Indonesian JI operative Abu Yasin to bomb key cities in the country in retaliation for the death of ASG leaders during a police assault in Taguig City in March. *With reports from Dona Pazzibugan, Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau and Inquirer Wires*

Noli: I'm not an option

By Cynthia D. Balana

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO YESTERday shrugged off calls for his resignation, saying he was determined to succeed President Macapagal-Arroyo in case she resigns.

In a talk with the Inquirer, De Castro stressed that a vacancy in the presidency would not necessarily mean a vacancy in the vice presidency.

"I believe it's wrong for them to consider me merely an option or an alternative because I am the sole constitutional successor to the President if she resigns," he said.

Former President Fidel Ramos was the latest to join the mounting calls for the two top officials of the land to quit.

De Castro said only the people who voted for him could deny him the right to succeed Ms Arroyo, either by removing him or cutting short his term, but that this must be expressed in a plebiscite.

He said that if the President resigns it does not follow that he should also resign. "*Ako uupo dahil maliwanag iyan sa Saligang Batas. Hindi ko maintindihan kung paano papasok iyang mga* snap election *na iyan. Baguhin muna nila ang Saligang Batas* (I will sit as President because that's clear in the Constitution. I cannot understand how snap elections could enter the picture. They should first amend the Constitution)," De Castro said.

As this developed, election lawyer Romulo Macalintal yesterday dared former Sen. Loren Legarda to withdraw her election protest against De Castro.

He said Legarda should also make the supreme sacrifice to withdraw her protest since she was claiming to be the rightful winner in the 2004 vice presidential election.

But that should only happen if Ms Arroyo and De Castro resigned, he said.

"Legarda is claiming the office of the vice president and the right to be the rightful successor to the presidency. If GMA and Noli resigned, what about Loren? Will she also agree to withdraw her case?" he asked.

But Legarda dismissed Macalintal's argument as unacceptable.

"That's not the issue. I am not the issue here. The issue here is the two are being asked to resign because they cheated," Legarda said.

"Why should I withdraw my protest when I was the one cheated. I just want to right the wrong committed against me and the people who voted for me. Justice to the rightful winner," she added. *With a report from DJ Yap*

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Palace: No concession to 13 Magdalo officers

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

ARMED FORCES CHIEF GEN. GENEROSO Senga yesterday said the 13 leaders of the failed coup of July 2003 who have twice apologized to President Macapagal-Arroyo will not get any concessions for their trouble.

The 13 junior officers, who are among the 96 leaders of the military takeover of the Oakwood Premiere Hotel at the Ayala Center on July 27, 2003, sent "A Personal Letter to our Commander" last Sept. 21.

In it, they said they had accepted "that we made a mistake with our actions at Oakwood" and reaffirmed their allegiance to the AFP, "the organization where we really belong."

The Sept. 21 manifesto was made public late Tuesday when two of the signatory officers, Army Captains Gerardo Gambala and Milo Maestrecampo, were interviewed by ANC television.

Senga said he knew about the TV appearance, the first for anyone from the group of mutinous officers—who called themselves the Magdalo group during the day-long mutiny—who have been barred from any media contact since their incarceration two years ago.

"No concessions were created. Their statements, their change of heart were done on their own... and I appreciate what they have done," Senga said in a chance interview yesterday.

"Of course we are hoping that the others would also do the same. But people have different views about some things. So we respect it," he added.

He said he was not sure how the manifesto would affect the officers' court cases, but he expected the courts to consider the "remorse" displayed by the 13 officers.

"I think [their letter] would have an effect. I think the courts looks at people who express remorse with compassion. That's normal," Senga said.

The 96 junior officers, including the 27 core leaders, are being tried before a military court for conduct unbecoming an officer and gentleman.

The core leaders are also being tried on coup d'etat charges by a civilian court.

In their letter, the 13 officers said they "no longer [wanted] to support any form of military action against the government and as such make it known that we are not part of any destabilization plots."

The other signatories were Captains Albert Baloloy, Laurence Louis Somera, First Lieutenants Jeffrey Cauguiran, Jose Enrico Dingle, Rex Bolo, Warren Lee Dagupon, Cleo Donggaas, Florentino Somera Jr., Second Lieutenants Bryan Yasay, Regino Orteza and Wary James Tayaban, who are all Army officers.

Gambala, Maestrecampo and four of the core leaders, Marine Captains Nicanor Faeldon and Gary Alejano and Navy Lieutenants Senior Grade Antonio Trillanes IV and James Layug, personally apologized to the President last Sept. 24, 2004.

A plea bargain extended to 184 enlisted men who joined the failed coup did not extend to the officers.

Contempt raps vs LandBank withdrawn

By Nelson F. Flores

STATE PROSECUTORS YESTERDAY WITHdrew the contempt charges they filed against some officials of the Land Bank of the Philippines after the bank's management agreed to place under garnishment five dollar accounts belonging to the family of former Armed Forces comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos F. Garcia.

Robert E. Kallos, the deputy special prosecutor, said the government would drop its petition for contempt after LBP officials submitted a written manifestation to the Sandiganbayan 4th Division that the Garcia dollar accounts were effectively frozen as of March 31, 2005.

On Nov. 2, 2004, the Sandiganbayan issued a garnishment order against all known properties of the Garcia family.

However, Rosemarie Osoteo, the LBP vice president, said the order could not be enforced as the Garcia family's dollar accounts were considered "absolutely confidential" and exempt from garnishment under RA 6426, or the Foreign Currency Deposit System Act.

Government lawyers immediately filed a petition for contempt to force the bank's officials to comply with the court order.

The government has filed plunder and forfeiture cases against Garcia who is accused of illegally amassing more than P345 million in assets and properties while serving as Armed Forces comptroller. He is alleged to have received millions of pesos in payoffs from military contractors.

GMA wants Cebu to host Asean + 3 summit next year

By Christine O. Avendaño

CEBU CITY – MARVELLING AT the way Cebu has become a magnet for tourists, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said the province could host next year the holding of the Asean + 3 Summit.

It will be the turn of the Philippines to host next year the summit that comprised of members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and its three partner countries made up of Japan, China and South Korea.

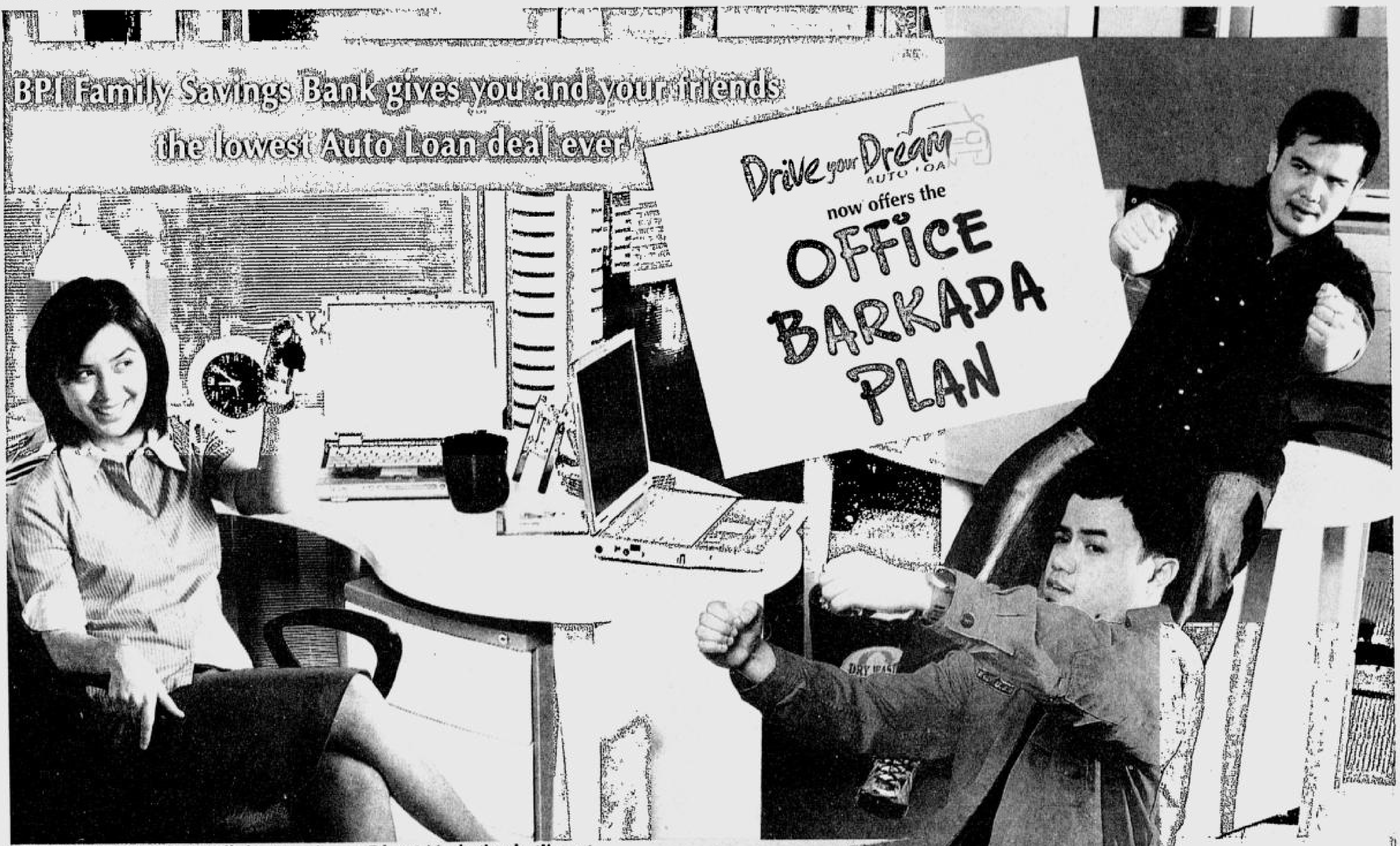
"It's going to be a great summit, not only for Asean but also for us, because Cebu is what we want to showcase of what the Philippines can be," President Arroyo said in a speech at the opening of the Cebu Hilton resort and spa here.

The President noted the rise of new hotels in the province and urged local officials to build more tourism facilities.

She also said that Cebu has become a magnet for tourists, citing tourist arrivals.

Last year, she said half of 2.4 million tourists who visited the country went to Cebu.

But for this year, the President said tourism officials expect that out of the 2.7 million tourists coming in, 75 percent of them will head to Cebu.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Pichay on speakership: It ain't over ...

By Michael Lim Ubac

HE IS NOT READY TO THROW in the towel, even after the merger of President Macapagal-Arroyo's Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino with the ruling Lakas-CMD appears to have scuttled his bid for the House speakership.

"How can you say it's over when it has yet to begin? I haven't even announced that I will (run)," said Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay.

Pichay is now eyeing the support of the Liberal Party to boost his chances of ousting Speaker Jose de Venecia.

In a phone interview, Pichay said the LP, which was split in half by the failed impeachment bid last month, had decided to tackle the issue of the rivalry for the House speakership as "one party."

The LP held a party caucus on Tuesday at the residence Sen. Manuel Roxas. It was attended by 20 of the 34 LP House members.

LP's terms

"If they are for the Speaker, they could have said so there and then," said Pichay.

Quezon Rep. Erin Tañada, vice chair of the party's national organizing committee, confirmed that Pichay and De Venecia were both courting the LP.

"If Pichay is really serious, our support for him will depend on proposal he has to make to (improve) the present set-up in the House," he said.

Contacted by phone, LP vice chair Sen. Francis Pangilinan said the party had yet to make its choice.

PICHAY: It has not even started

Administration lawmakers observed that Pichay's bid for the speakership abruptly ended after De Venecia, the Lakas president, and Rep. Ronaldo Puno, the Kampi president, quietly signed an agreement last week for Kampi to join the ruling party.

Besides Puno, 24 Kampi members signed the one-page manifesto to "create, solidify, and strengthen the ruling party so important in the formation of a parliamentary system which we so avowedly desire."

It said that should the merger not be feasible for any reason, Kampi would "re-affiliate" with the Lakas-CMD "to help ensure the expanded role of the nation's ruling party in the adoption soonest of a unicameral parliamentary government."

Kampi earlier threatened to block De Venecia's Charter change initiative, after the Speaker suggested cutting short the term of the President in 2007 to pave the way for the transition to a parliamentary system.

Concessions to Kampi

In exchange for supporting De Venecia's leadership and his Charter change initiative, Kampi members will take over some of the most powerful leadership posts in the House, including two slots in the bicameral Commission on Appointments.

In a joint statement, LP representatives Benigno Aquino III and Rolando Andaya Jr. said the party members had decided to "set aside political differences and unite as one" to make them "a force to reckon with."

"As a party, [the] LP will seek an audience with (both contenders) ... but this is going to be a solid vote," the statement said.

Tañada explained that this meant that "we would not vote individually but as a party ... whoever would present a better program in the House."

SECURITY COUNCIL BIG LEAGUE
US Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton, right, meets with Philippine Ambassador Lauro Baja, left, Japan's Amassador Kenzo Oshima, second left, and China's Ambassador Wang Guangya in the Security Council chamber before a meeting, Tuesday. The Philippines has been presidiing over the Security Council, highlighted by President Macapagal Arroyo's stint as presididing officere of the the Council during its summit last month. AP

Palace asks SC to reject petition vs EO 464

By Armand N. Nocum

MALACAÑANG HAS ASKED THE Supreme Court to dismiss petitions questioning the constitutionality of Executive Order No. 464, saying there was no legal basis to question the legality of the edict.

In a consolidated comment to the petitions filed by various groups, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita – who was represented by Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo – sought the dismissal of the petitions on the ground that, among others, there was no actual case involving the application of EO 464 to warrant its review by the courts.

Ermita noted that the petitioners' allegation that the EO barring Cabinet members and military and police officials from appearing in congressional hearings would affect the doctrine of separation of powers was based only on "apprehensions" that the President would withhold her consent for such appearances.

"Having failed to allege any action on the part of the President showing that EO 464 has actually impeded Congress' power to conduct legislative inquiries and that the principle of separation of powers has been violated, the four petitions should be dismissed outright by this honorable court," Benipayo said in his comment.

Various senators led by Senate President Franklin Drilon, party-list representatives, lawyer Francisco Chavez, the Alternative Law Groups were among those who went to the SC to question the EO 464.

Ermita said it only covered officials in the Executive Department and so there was "no conflict between this executive issuance and the exercise of any legislative power."

Ermit said there was nothing in EO 464 which prevented Congress from conducting inquiries in aid of legislation.

Quake preparedness measures ordered

By Leila B. Salaverria

TO ENSURE PUBLIC SAFETY, THE DEPARTment of Public Works and Highways yesterday directed local building officials of six high-risk cities in Metro Manila to identify structures in their respective areas that are vulnerable to earthquakes.

The move is part of the DPWH's earthquake preparedness program, under which the soundness of buildings, bridges and flyovers would be examined by a specially-created Task Force on Building Inspection.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology has identified the six earthquake-prone cities as Marikina, Manila, Pasig, Pateros, Taguig and Muntinlupa.

DPWH Undersecretary Salvador Pleyto, head of the task force, said critical buildings, bridges and flyovers in the six cities would be given priority in the inspection so that necessary measures or repairs could be carried out at once.

"We will prioritize the inspection of structures in these cities. Since the local building officials know their areas better than we do, we instructed them to identify the structures that should be assessed at once," he said in a phone interview.

Critical structures

Establishments like schools, hospitals, communication centers and food storage facilities are also on the list of structures that would be given importance in inspections.

Pleyto presided over the first meeting of the task force yesterday. Its vice chair is the executive director of the National Building Code Development Office, while its members are Metro Manila building officials, DPWH officials, the Phivolcs, Metro Manila Development Authority, Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers, United Architects of the Philippines, Association of Structural Engineers of the Philippines and Institute of Integrated Electrical Engineers.

Pleyto said that after critical structures have been identified, the task force would draft a plan on how the actual field inspections should be conducted by each of the concerned organizations.

Among those that would be inspected and assessed in a building are its foundation, posts, columns and beams, electrical wiring and its architecture.

Inspection teams

The task force has formed inspection teams composed of representatives from each of the member agencies and these would be the ones to check the buildings. Another composite team would assess the conditions of bridges and government offices.

DPWH National Capital Region Director Robert Lala has instructed district engineers to inspect Metro Manila's 226 bridges and 16 flyovers.

The Task Force on Building Inspection was created through a special order issued on Monday by DPWH Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr.

The task force was formed "to mitigate damages to buildings/structures in the event an earthquake occurs."

The task force is supposed to conduct inspections and assess the conditions of various buildings in Metro Manila and recommend further actions to the DPWH secretary.

Survey says media reporting too negative

By Jamie Alarcon
PDI Research.

A SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE SOCIAL Weather Stations at the height of impeachment proceedings against President Macapagal-Arroyo showed that 41 percent of 1,200 adults polled believed that media reporting had become too negative.

Twenty-nine percent of the respondents disagreed with the statement "Often, news on television, radio and in newspapers are purely negative and are no longer helping the country," according to the results of the nationwide poll released yesterday.

Undecided replies totaled 28 percent.

Those who said they "strongly agreed" with the statement tended to be from the National Capital Region (15 percent), or Class E, the poorest sector (14 percent).

General agreement (either "strongly" or "somewhat") was also highest among Metro Manilans at 47 percent, and Classes ABC at 44 percent.

The polling was conducted from Aug. 25 to Sept. 5, during the opposition's attempts to unseat Ms Arroyo over allegations she rigged last year's balloting. Ms Arroyo's dominant allies in the House rejected the impeachment articles on Sept. 6.

Another survey item showed that 37 percent of Filipinos thought that the opposition does not have a clear plan for the country and its only objective is to overthrow the President. The highest levels of agreement were among the 35-44 age bracket.

Some 28 percent disagreed with this statement while 31 percent were undecided.

The survey was commissioned by the AMA Education System, known for its computer courses.

IKAW AT ANG SSS

Questions & Answers
on Social Security

Disability Benefit

What is the New SSS Disability Program?

The new program adopts the World Health Organization's (WHO) definition of disability that states as any "restriction or lack (resulting from impairment) of ability to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being." Impairment is defined as any loss or abnormality of psychological, physiological, or anatomical structure or function.

What is the main objective of the new disability program?

The re-designed disability program aims to ensure that the right cash benefit for disability is paid to truly deserving members.

What is medical and functional assessment under the new disability program?

Under medical assessment, nature and degree of impairment of affected body part/system is determined through physical examination and interview supported by appropriate diagnostic tests. While, under functional assessment, the capacity of the individual to perform activities of daily living (ADL) is tested using the Functional Independence Measure (FIM). Member should have 20% medical impairment rating to qualify for functional assessment.

Who is qualified for disability benefit under the new program?

A member who suffers from partial or total permanent disability with at least one monthly contribution paid to the SSS prior to the semester of contingency is qualified.

What are some of the partial permanent disabilities with designated schedule of monthly pension?

A complete and permanent loss or use of any of the following body parts: one thumb, one index finger, one middle finger, one ring finger, one little finger, hearing of one ear, hearing of both ears, sight of one eye, one big toe, one hand, one arm, one foot, one leg, one ear, and both ears.

What are some of the total permanent disabilities?

The following fall under total permanent disability: 1) complete loss of sight of both eyes; 2) loss of two limbs at or above the ankles or wrists;
3) permanent complete paralysis of two limbs; 4) brain injury resulting to incurable imbecility or insanity; and such cases as determined and approved by the SSS.

What are the types of disability benefits?

The monthly pension, which is a cash benefit paid to a disabled member who has paid at least 36 monthly contributions to the SSS prior to the semester of disability and the lump sum amount, which is granted to those who have not paid the required 36 monthly contributions.

How much is the monthly pension?

The amount of the monthly pension will be based on the member's number of paid contributions and his years of membership.

The lowest monthly pension is P1,000 for a member with less than 10 credited years of service (CYS); P1,200 with at least 10 CYS and P2,400 with at least 20 CYS.

Is the monthly pension for life?

Only totally and permanently disabled member will receive a lifetime monthly pension. However, his pension will be suspended if he has already recovered from his illness, has resumed employment or has failed to report for physical examination when notified by the SSS. The member may request for a domiciliary by SSS physician at any of SSS branch offices if his disability inhibits him from reporting for re-examination .

The monthly pension of a partially disabled member is paid up to a certain number of months only according to the degree of his disability. The monthly pension is given in a lump sum if duration of pension is payable for less than 12 months.

How is the monthly pension paid?

A member who is entitled to the monthly pension is required to choose from any of the SSS accredited banks nearest his residence through which he wishes to receive his pension benefits under the "Mag-Impok sa Bangko" program. This became mandatory effective September 1, 1993.

Aside from the disability benefit claim, what else can a disability pensioner receive?

In addition to the monthly pension, a supplemental allowance of P500.00 is paid to the total or partial disability pensioner. The allowance will provide additional financial assistance to meet his extra needs arising from his disability.

The dependent legitimate, legitimated, legally adopted, and illegitimate children, conceived on or before the date of contingency of a totally disabled pensioner are also entitled to the dependent's pension equivalent to 10 per cent of the member's monthly pension or P250.00, whichever is higher. The minor children of a partially disabled pensioner are not entitled to the dependent's pension.

What is the prescriptive period in filing disability claim?

The prescriptive period in the filing of disability benefit claim should be ten (10) years from the date of occurrence of disability. Application is filed at the nearest SSS office.

For more information visit the SSS office nearest you or call 920-6446 upto 55 or e-mail at member_relations@sss.gov.ph.

Kabalikat mo sa buhay!

Fax to: 924-3465 or 435-9835 or Mail to: Member Relations Dept., Social Security System, East Avenue, Quezon City

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SS Number:
Address:
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Use separate sheet, if necessary

SSS 2003-12

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND EDUCATION
President Macapagal-Arroyo is welcomed as guest of honor during the "Entrepreneurship and Basic Education: Investing in Young Minds Now" forum organized by the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship, along with the Department of Education, on Tuesday at the Manila Polo Club. Welcoming the President are (from left) Joselito Campos, chair and CEO of Unilab, Socorro Ramos, founder and general manager of National Bookstore and Jose Ma. Concepcion III, presidential consultant for entrepreneurship.

Church group says VAT to drive people to hunger

By Jerome Aning

UNLESS THEY CAN SCROUNGE AROUND for up to P900 more, families earning less than P15,000 a month will have to cut down spending even on such basic necessities as food and health care when the expanded value added tax is implemented next month, a church-based labor research group said Tuesday.

"The EVAT's implementation will only further widen the already yawning gap between the incomes of ordinary Filipino households and the prices of basic goods and services," said Paul Quintos, executive director of the Ecumenical Institute for Labor Education and Research, or Eiler.

Quintos described the expanded VAT as the Arroyo administration's "horrible Halloween treat" and warned of widespread unrest among the working people due to the increase in the prices of of goods and services resulting from the higher tax impositions.

His Quezon City-based organization estimated that just to stay above water, a family earning P15,000 a month would need between P600 and P900 in additional income each month.

Quintos noted that the prevailing P325-minimum daily wage in Metro Manila, the highest in the country, is just 48 percent of the estimated P681 daily cost of living for a family of six as established by the National Wages and Productivity Commission.

He said the government should improve its VAT collections rather than widen the coverage and increase the tax rate.

According to the National Tax Research Center, the government was losing an average 30 percent of the expected annual collection from the previous VAT law due to leakages. This translates to annual losses of up to P41 billion, or about P208 billion from 1998 to 2002.

SC won't annul sale of Locsin press, lot

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE SUPREME COURT HAS UPHELD THE Martial Law-era sale of properties belonging to the Philippines Free Press magazine to a crony of former President Ferdinand Marcos, saying there was simply no way that that venerable pillar of Philippine journalism, Teodoro Locsin Sr., could have been deterred from trying to have the sale rescinded much earlier if he really had wanted to.

The tribunal's Third Division junked an appeal by the magazine, now run by the late Locsin's sons Rep. Teodoro L. Locsin Jr. and Enrique Locsin, to void the 1973 sale of the properties to Hans Menzi, then publisher of the Manila Bulletin and a close associate of Marcos.

The Court of Appeals had also earlier turned down the Locsin heirs, who contended that the properties had been sold under duress and that Locsin Sr. had no legal means to annul the sale during Marcos' rule.

"It strains credulity to believe that petitioner found it impossible to commence and succeed in an annulment suit during the entire stretch of the dictatorial regime," the Supreme Court said in a ruling written by Justice Cancio Garcia.

It said the magazine had failed to "convincingly prove" that Locsin Sr. was "so circumscribed that it was well-nigh impossible for him/them to successfully institute an action during the martial law years."

Feigning ignorance

"Petitioner cannot plausibly feign ignorance of the fact that shortly after his arrest in the evening of Sept. 20, 1972, Mr. Locsin Sr., together with several journalists, dared to file suits against powerful figures of the dictatorial regime and veritably challenged the legality of the declaratio. of martial law," the court said.

"Judging from the actuations of Mr. Locsin Sr. during the onset of the martial law regime and immediately thereafter, any suggestion that intimidation or duress forcibly stayed his hands during the dark days of martial law to seek judicial assistance must be rejected," it added

The Philippines Free Press was highly critical of Marcos before it was shut down, along with almost all other newspapers, when the strongman declared martial law in 1972. The only papers that remained open were the Bulletin and the now-defunct Philippine Daily Express, then a newly established newspaper owned by people close to Marcos. The Free Press resumed publication in 1988.

According to its petition, Marcos, through emissaries, tried to buy the weekly magazine from Locsin Sr. The journalist, however, refused to sell until Menzi, a former military aide-de-camp to Marcos, approached him in the middle of 1973.

Menzi had insisted that "Marcos cannot be denied" and that Locsin Sr. had "no choice but to sell," the Free Press said.

Locsin Sr. agreed to sell the magazine's 5,000-square-meter property on Pasong Tamo Extension in Makati along with its building and the magazine's equipment for a total of P5.75 million. Locsin Sr., however, refused to sell the magazine or its name.

The late publisher agreed to sell the properties after his employees demanded separation pay while the magazine's minority stockholders asked that he buy out their shares.

Founded in 1908, the Philippines Free Press was one of the country's most influential and widely read publications and brought acclaim to such writers as Nick Joaquin, Arsenio H. Lacson, Alfredo Salanga, Wilfredo D. Nolledo, Kerima Polotan-Tuvera, Tita Lacambra-Ayala, Napoleon Rama, among many others.

Its closure in 1972 was the second time the magazine was shut down. The Japanese occupation army shut it down in 1942.

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Palace aide mocks 'people's court'

From page A1

Truth and Accountability (CCTA) as one of the media "antics" of the opposition, Malacañang yesterday made a mockery of its notice of proceedings to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

A minor functionary, Assistant Secretary Emerito Magdangal of the Office of the Press Secretary, signed for the document served by human rights lawyer Romeo Capulong outside the Palace's Mendiola gate.

Then Magdangal turned around, cut through the phalanx of antiriot policewomen, tore the document to pieces and sent the bits flying while walking to a government vehicle.

For added effect, three Metro Aide street sweepers who were on the scene even before the subpoena was served, swept up the pieces.

Magdangal pompously refused to be interviewed while tearing up the document signed by former Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., who will head the CCTA's Presidium.

But Magdangal later issued a statement saying: "We all know that based on our knowledge of the Constitution, the paper that I received has no legal basis and is worthless. It will only crowd my desk, and because it is worthless, it's only proper to throw it away."

Capulong said Magdangal's behavior was "very unbecoming" and "uncalled for," but added that he and the other convenors of the "people's court" were not surprised.

"This is not the way to treat a very serious undertaking," the internationally known lawyer told reporters. "The attitude shown by Mr. Magdangal reflects the attitude of his superior."

Nathanael Santiago, secretary general of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, said another copy of the notice of proceedings had been served on Malacañang.

He said the notice was received by the Palace's records section and was assigned the barcode number R00321718.

"What Magdangal did was infidelity to a public document. He did not respect even his own signature," Santiago said.

The three-page document formally informs Ms Arroyo to present her side, either personally or through a lawyer, on the accusation that she used her position to cheat during last year's presidential election.

It also grants her the venue to clear herself of charges that she had accepted "jueteng" money, approved contracts disadvantageous to the government, used public funds to finance her campaign, committed human rights violations through political killings, and curtailed the people's right to peaceful assembly.

"The Citizen's Congress would be her chance to clear her name, once and for all, and put a closure to all these issues and concerns," Capulong said.

The CCTA has set a public trial for Ms Arroyo starting on Nov. 8 at the University of the Philippines' Theater.

Show of force

Malacañang presented a show of force in dealing with the CCTA, which had planned to serve the notice to Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

Police blocked about a dozen members of the people's court in front of the Centro Escolar University (CEU) on Mendiola at about 2 p.m.

Capulong told Supt. Evangelina Candia, spokesperson of the Manila Police District: "This is not a rally. We are not armed. We will just bring this [document] to Secretary Ermita."

To which Candia replied: "Our suggestion is that you send it by official registered mail."

Capulong said only five of them would enter the gate near CEU, which leads to Malacañang's Gate 7.

Rolls of barbed wire, metal bars and container vans blocked the first gate.

Members of the Presidential Security Group armed with Armalites manned the gate. A dozen of them, also in full battle gear, watched the gate from a vehicle parked nearby.

A fire truck, a forklift and container vans also blocked the road leading to Gate 7, which opens to the Palace grounds, and which was covered with galvanized iron sheets painted green and white.

Private initiative

Senate President Franklin Drilon upheld the right of the multi-sector Bukluran Para sa Katotohanan to form a people's court to hear accusations against Ms Arroyo.

"This is an initiative taken by [members of] the private sector, and they are completely free to do this, just like any other crusading citizens of this country. Such activities are not prohibited," Drilon said.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said the formation of the people's court indicated public frustration at lingering doubts over the legitimacy of the Arroyo administration.

"More and more people are considering the last resort in the resolution of the political controversies that affect the economy, stability and peace and security," said Biazon, who, like Drilon, has called for Ms Arroyo's resignation.

"With the people's court, we seem to be going in that direction because the [dismissed] impeachment [case] has not provided a credible and acceptable resolution of the question of the leadership's legitimacy, credibility and integrity," he said.

But Biazon warned that the proponents of the people's court should ensure that it would not lead to "a total breakdown of our institutions and processes."

He also raised the "problem" of who would implement its ruling.

Propaganda

But administration Senators Ralph Recto and Joker Arroyo dismissed the CCTA as opposition propaganda that the country did not need.

"In effect, it is a kangaroo court as well, sad to say," Recto said, echoing Malacañang's statement on Tuesday.

He added: "I think former Vice President Guingona is a very level-headed person, but I can't imagine how this people's court will function to be fair.

"I think it is just an opposition gimmick that will not be of any help to us. It's just for propaganda purposes."

Arroyo dismissed the people's court as "nothing."

He said the President had the upper hand because the economy was supposedly growing.

Administration Rep. Mauricio Domogan, a lawyer by profession, said the proceedings of the people's court would be a "sham."

"They have long prejudged [the case]. Ms Arroyo was judged guilty even before the people's court was created, so we don't expect a fair trial," said Domogan, vice chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments.

But House Deputy Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano said: "The evidence is damning ... and if presented will leave no doubt that she cheated and ordered a cover-up."

'Nuisance'

By the reckoning of the Armed Forces, the people's court is a "nuisance."

And the AFP will file charges of violation of the Articles of War against any active member of the military who will take part in it, Col. Tristan Kison, chief of the AFP Public Information Office, told the weekly media forum in San Juan.

Kison said the people's court would add to the tense political situation, but would not be a security threat to the administration.

"Its purpose is to bring down the government—the same as the rallies being undertaken by different groups. But we will allow it as long as it remains peaceful," he added.

With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana, Michael Lim Ubac and Alcuin Papa

Defensor ready to face people's court

By Christine O. Avendaño

CEBU CITY—THE SO-CALLED people's court is nothing but a "media ploy," but Environment Secretary Michael Defensor will not hesitate to face it.

"If they call me, I will [testify]," Defensor told reporters yesterday, adding that he would tell the court the supposed real outcome of the 2004 presidential election.

Defensor, President Macapagal-Arroyo's troubleshooter and former campaign manager, has constantly defended her from accusations of poll fraud, saying she won the election fair and square.

But while he would face the people's court, Defensor said he was questioning the authority of its convenors to try Ms Arroyo.

"What right does this group have to call for a people's court?" he said.

Defensor also assailed the participation of former Vice President Teofisto Guingona in the people's court.

"If he really felt that way, why did he accept being ambassador to China, in the first place, and then turn around, calling for the President's resignation when the going got rough with [her]?" Defensor said.

GMA asks opposition: Join gov't of nat'l unity

From page A1

economic takeoff," said Ms Arroyo.

Not power-sharing

The opposition has accused Ms Arroyo of rigging last year's election. She has denied the charge and last month escaped an impeachment attempt in Congress. Her rivals have vowed to press their efforts to unseat her by holding protest actions.

Speaking at the grand opening of the Cebu Hilton Resort and Spa here, the President said she would initiate consultations on her proposal at a meeting of major political parties.

Noting that some people have already rejected her allies' call for power-sharing, Ms Arroyo made it clear that she was not offering any "power-sharing."

She said power-sharing "is only applicable to the parliamentary system."

"So we wait for that change in the Charter but in the meantime, it's sharing public leadership and responsibility for the common good," Ms Arroyo said.

While the President said some people had already rejected a unity government, she pointed out that opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara was supportive and she thanked him for that.

El Shaddai advice

The President's proposal was apparently meant to show that she was heeding the advice of key allies led by El Shaddai leader Bro. Mike Velarde to form a coalition government in order to address the political crisis.

Offering himself as a mediator, Velarde has initiated a dialogue with Ms Arroyo's rivals, including former Presidents Joseph Estrada and Corazon Aquino.

Defensor, who accompanied Ms Arroyo, acknowledged that the Velarde initiative was just one component of ongoing efforts to effect national unity.

He said the President's offer was a new one, given that in past efforts to reconcile with her political foes, she had never mentioned teaming up with the opposition "towards leadership."

"Now it's clear that the President said there would be unity in running the country," he said.

"The President has been clear about her statement: Let us all be accountable in leading this nation."

Defensor said he was willing to give up his post "for this purpose" and other Cabinet members were prepared to do "what is best for the national interest."

Throwing in towel?

Asked how soon the government plans to conclude these talks, he said Christmas would be a good time to discuss the proposal. "Hopefully, by next year, we will have a unity government."

Asked whether this was tantamount to throwing in the towel to Ms Arroyo's political foes, Defensor disagreed.

"It's not waving the white flag, but let me just say it's not only a show of humility but the brand of leadership of the President," he said.

"She has to do something in order for the country to unite," Defensor said.

In her speech, Ms Arroyo also reiterated the need for everyone to turn to God.

"We have avian flu around us, we have terrorism, we have destabilizers, we have high oil prices. We must turn to God, that's the first thing, reconciling with God," she said. "And then, we must turn our focus to the ordinary people we must serve."

Police stop protest

Police implemented the controversial calibrated preemptive response policy in Mandaue City for the first time yesterday, stopping about 100 members of the leftist Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and the Nagkahiusang Drayber sa Sugbo from demonstrating against Ms Arroyo's visit.

Twenty to 30 policemen were deployed at A.C. Cortes Avenue, around a kilometer from the Mactan-Mandaue Bridge.

Bayan Muna regional coordinator Arman Perez condemned the police and Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia for stopping the protest.

"They just wanted to impress the President ... It was a clear political harassment against us who just wanted to hold a peaceful rally against the President," Perez said.

Supt. Emmanuel Ughoc, officer in charge of the Mandaue police, said he was just enforcing the "no permit, no rally" policy. *With a report from Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Bro. Mike's son-in-law named IBC-13 president

From page A1

questered television network IBC-13 by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

A former vice mayor of Malabon, Yambao took over the post last month, according to Malacañang's Cerge Remonde, group head for Government Mass Media.

Yambao is the second in Velarde's inner circle to be given a juicy post in the Arroyo administration, after El Shaddai spokesperson Mel Robles, who was named head of the Light Rail Transit Authority late last year.

Malacañang has acknowledged the decisive role played by the charismatic group El Shaddai, as well as the Iglesia ni Cristo, in clinching Ms Arroyo's victory in the May 2004 presidential polls.

But Velarde has since called on Ms Arroyo to cut short her term, saying this would help end the political crisis triggered by accusations that she stole the election.

Conflict of interest

Yambao's appointment is viewed as a possible source of conflict of interest in the sale of IBC-13, which the President wants fast-tracked.

El Shaddai is a longtime block timer of IBC-13, and Velarde is said to be among its interested buyers. Also a reported interested buyer is Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. chair Manuel V. Pangilinan, who is looking for a broadcast station from which to launch PLDT's multimedia expansion.

Velarde had also been on the lookout for a TV network to purchase since Zoe Broadcasting Corp., his 50-50 venture with Bro. Eddie Villanueva, unraveled.

Robles and three other El Shaddai members were also members of the IBC-13 board during President Joseph Estrada's administration.

Even then, El Shaddai's strategic position in the company raised fears that the charismatic group would get undue advantage over other bidders should the government push through with the sale of IBC-13.

But Remonde said the presence of a Velarde relative in IBC-13 management would not pose a problem.

He said it would not affect the plan to privatize the company, along with RPN-9, another sequestered TV station, in the next few months.

He also said the contract to assess IBC-13 assets would be auctioned to ensure full transparency in the privatization process.

IBC-13 has substantial assets apart from the TV station, making it the biggest catch among the sequestered networks.

It owns a four-hectare lot at Broadcast City in Quezon City, as well as several pieces of real estate in the provinces, where its five remote TV stations and nine radio stations are deployed.

DOH: Bird flu not 'if' but 'when'

From page A1

tween October and February usually sent migratory birds from China to the Philippines.

Don't go bird hunting

The government has earmarked P160 million for the multi-agency effort against bird flu.

Duque said the DOH would also use a portion of the P1-billion budget allocated for SARS for the campaign.

"We have to wake up everybody and educate them on this issue," he said.

The secretary said avian flu could be more infectious than SARS because a carrier might spread the virus without him knowing it. That's because transmission might come even without any clear symptoms on the victim.

"You might be walking around and you don't know you're already spreading the virus," he said.

As a precaution, Duque urged the public to forego bird hunting. He said shooting a flock of birds would naturally disperse them, possibly allowing an infected bird to infect local poultry.

Threat real

"The threat of migrating birds is real," he said. "Let us be content with bird watching. Don't get near or shoot them, especially those in the bird sanctuaries."

Dr. Luningning Villa, program manager of the DOH center for infectious diseases, yesterday advised the public to maintain a 100-meter distance from fowls showing symptoms of the deadly H5N1 bird flu strain.

Another measure will involve administering antiflu drugs to people who will get in contact with infected birds.

Villa said the normal prescription was one capsule daily for seven days, regardless of whether the person showed symptoms like headache and fever.

Drugs

If symptoms show, she said the patient should take the drug for five days, twice daily.

The most common drug is Oseltamivir or Tamiflu, which is exclusively manufactured by Swiss company Roche. Duque said the prescription drug cost between P1,400 and P1,750 for a pack of 10 capsules.

Drugs by January

The government is expecting P8.5 million worth of the drug by January, he said. The delivery will be on top of the P1.7-million order earlier made by the DOH through the World Health Organization.

Duque said the supply would be given for free to "high-risk" groups, such as poultry farm workers.

He said these groups would also get free supply of protective gears in the event of an outbreak.

With a report from AFP

OFW cash boosts peso to 54.96

From page A1

at a news briefing.

"We think the peso can strengthen further," Tetangco added.

Record-high foreign exchange reserves of $18.59 billion last month and the scheduled implementation of the expanded value-added tax (VAT) law have also buoyed the peso, he added.

Tetangco said cash transfers by OFWs should reach $10.3 billion this year, 20 percent higher than the inflows in 2004. In the first eight months to August, total remittances have already reached about $7 billion.

2nd best performer

Foreign direct investments are likewise expected to rise to $900 million this year from $499 million as of end-July, and further to $1.2 billion next year as investors look past prevailing political concerns, he said.

The peso's fortunes have turned around in the past three months, making the Philippine currency Asia's best performer after the Chinese yuan, after President Macapagal-Arroyo survived an attempt to impeach her at the House of Representatives and the Supreme Court lifted its freeze order on the new VAT law.

"If you look at what is happening on the economic side, the picture is quite favorable. We see investments continuing to flow in," Tetangco said.

"Capital flows had been positive and combined with the phenomenal increase in OFW remittances, they have supported the local currency and helped smoothen volatility in the (foreign exchange) market."

BNP Paribas analyst Thio Chin Loo said the peso's rise reflected a reversal in the Philippines' balance of payments.

"The Philippines has been experiencing net capital account inflows that have more than sufficiently funded the trade deficit, leaving a net balance of payments surplus," Thio said in a note.

Jose Emmanuel Hilado, president of the country's foreign exchange association ACI, said the peso appreciation was driven by expectations of further foreign exchange inflows.

"It (peso) should find support at the 55 level where it could be attractive for corporate demand, but expect some correction back to 55.50 before it can resume appreciation," Hilado said.

Inflation threat

Even so, the central bank raised its inflation forecast for 2006 to 8.0-8.5 percent, from the original 7.5 percent, due to higher oil prices and the effects of the expanded value-added tax.

"The task of monetary policy is to deny any breeding ground for second-round (inflation) effects and demand pressure," Tetangco said.

The central bank, however, is keeping this year's inflation forecast of 7.6-7.9 percent, with the rise in consumer prices likely to average 6.0-7.0 percent in the last quarter.

The consumer price index rose by an average 7.9 percent in the nine months to September, way above the government target of 5.0-6.0 percent.

"There are risks to the inflation scenario," Tetangco said. "One is the uncertainty in the global oil market. While recent inflation trends have eased, no one can be certain what 2006 holds."

After three rounds of tightening since April totaling 75 basis points, the central bank's overnight rates now stand at 7.50 percent for borrowing and 9.75 percent for lending—their highest levels in three years.

Apart from high oil prices, Tetangco said excess liquidity in the financial system was also a potential risk to inflation.

He said the US Federal Reserve was widely expected to maintain its tightening bias in the coming months and this was another factor the Philippine central bank would consider.

"Monetary policy is not expected to be potent against high oil prices but it is expected to address any potential second round effects. Monetary authorities should be prepared to calibrate the policy response," he said.

Still positive on RP

John Stuermer, a Singapore-based analyst with US investment bank Bear Stearns who had predicted that President Arroyo would survive to finish her term, said in commentary on Oct. 25 that the bank remained positive on the Philippines.

In his visit to Manila last week, Stuermer said he was able to observe first-hand a number of positive developments—the Supreme Court lifted its freeze on the VAT law; the September budget deficit fell below the projected level of about P30 billion resulting in a cumulative first nine-month deficit of only P108 billion; and the leaders of the two largest religious organizations (Iglesia ni Cristo and El Shaddai) joined the Roman Catholic Church in calling on political leaders to stop bickering and work for the public good."

Unfortunately, he said politicians had ignored the "good" advice of the religious leaders, with former President Fidel V. Ramos even calling for Ms Arroyo to cut short her term.

"We view Ramos' statement as counterproductive because it may very well increase the level of political noise in the coming months, just as investors in Philippine bonds and equities thought it might be decreasing following the SC's release of its TRO on EVAT," Stuermer said. *With reports from AFP and Reuters*

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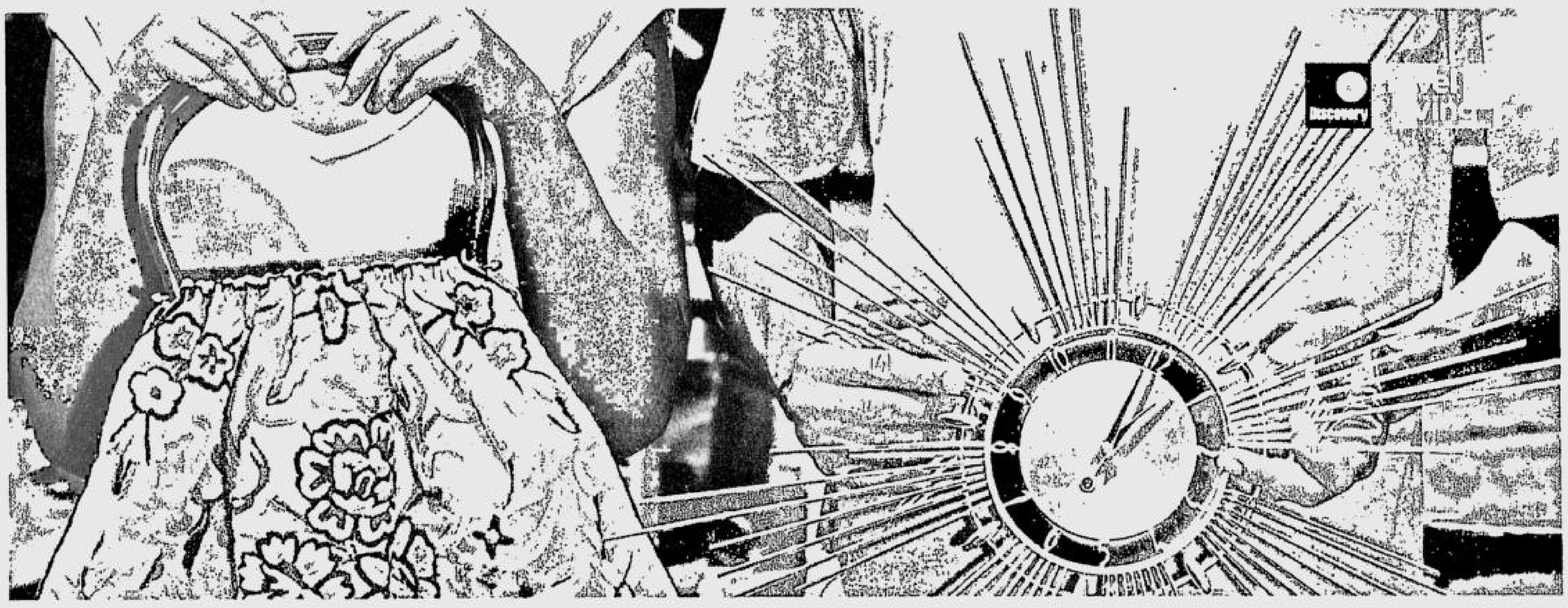

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‘Festival of killings’ in CL condemned

From page A1

Workers Union. At least seven people were killed when police and military dispersed striking workers at the hacienda in November.

Yesterday, two men shot Francisco Rivera, local chair of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) after an 8 a.m. jog in Angeles City in Pampanga. His companions, Dr. Angel David and Von John Maniti, also were killed in the attack as they were talking in front of Rivera’s house in Barangay Pulong Bulo. The gunmen, reports said, emerged from a parked van near Rivera’s house.

Rivera had at least nine bullet wounds. Witnesses’ accounts gathered by Bayan showed that a gunman approached the fallen Rivera and shot him in the head.

Also yesterday in Malolos City, Federico de Leon, president of the Pinagkaisang Samahan ng Tsuper at Opereytor Nationwide in Bulacan, was shot dead at past 5 p.m. De Leon was also the provincial chair of the militant group Anakpawis.

De Leon, 55, was shot in the head and chest. The killers, a man and a woman, posed as passengers in De Leon’s jeepney.

De Leon was the second transport leader killed in Bulacan. Leodegario Punzal of Norzagaray was murdered on Sept. 13, a day after Piston launched a region-wide strike.

The killings brought to 19 the number of activists killed in Central Luzon since Sept. 2, according to the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.

Roman Polintan, Bayan-Central Luzon chair, blamed the military for the “festival of killings” in the region, a charge the military has denied.

President orders probe

The Philippine National Police created a task force to investigate the slayings.

PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao also ordered Senior Supt. Perfecto Palad, head of the task force, to leave no stone unturned, said Chief Supt. Alejandro Lapinid, Central Luzon police director.

Lomibao went to Tarlac City yesterday to condole with the family of Ramos, Lapinid said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, Lomibao said, had ordered a thorough investigation and a manhunt against the assassins.

“We’re looking into the series of incidents so we can find out and ascertain the allegations of Bayan Muna,” he said at a press conference.

Noynoy condemns killing

Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes said the police would pursue the case “regardless of race, religion or creed” of the victims.

MOURNERS who condole with the widow of Ric Ramos, Lily, and son, Joshua, (extreme right) are led by Bayan Muna Representatives Satur Ocampo, Crispin Beltran, Paeng Mariano and Joel Virador JOAN BONDOC

The police urged the public not to jump into conclusions.

The former President’s son, Tarlac Rep. Benigno “Noynoy” Aquino III, condemned the killing of Ramos and urged law enforcers to put a stop to killings and other human rights violations in the province.

“I was really surprised and shocked. I did not expect this to happen since we were on our way in resolving the [labor] problem. Nobody wants this to go on for another year because everyone has suffered,” he said at a press conference.

He said that despite the labor dispute in Hacienda Luisita, his disagreements with Ramos never became “personal.”

“Even during the height of the strike, I got feedback that he never said anything bad about me,” the lawmaker said.

Representative Aquino said he had talked to the police to ensure that the killings and the harassment of militant groups in Tarlac would not happen again. “I’ve noticed that these (incidents) have been happening with impunity.”

He said that besides Ramos’ murder, he was concerned about other reported killings and the attempt last week to set on fire Bayan Muna’s office in Tarlac.

Two empty shells

Senior Supt. Nicanor Bartolome, Tarlac police director, said investigators recovered two empty shells from an M-14 rifle at least seven meters from the hut where Ramos was shot. The hut was 400 meters from his house.

Bartolome said investigators were still gathering the statements of at least eight men, some of them *barangay tanods* (village guards), who were drinking with Ramos when the attack took place.

Initially, the police reported that a lone assassin shot Ramos, barangay chair of the village.

Polintan linked Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan Jr., chief of the Army’s 7th Infantry Division based in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija, to the killings.

“The pattern has been firmly established. Militant leaders are really the targets and this had been the trend in Eastern Visayas and Mindoro where General Palparan was previously assigned. Bayan is demanding his ouster and prosecution,” Polintan said.

Palparan, who was assigned to Central Luzon in September, has denied involvement in the killings of leaders and members of militant groups. He was reassigned twice after human rights advocates, local officials and lawmakers accused him of grave human rights abuses.

Killings not coincidental

Bayan Muna Rep. Joel Virador did not buy Palparan’s claim that the killings in Central Luzon were merely “coincidental.”

Virador said the general’s “callousness” against members of legitimate people’s organizations and unarmed grass-roots activists had been “demonstrated well enough in his previous area assignments.”

“Palparan is the harbinger of death. The absence of any convincing response from the government seems to have emboldened him to commit more atrocities, and with virtual impunity,” he said.

He noted that last week, several armed men wearing bonnets tried to set fire on the Bayan Muna headquarters in Tarlac.

On Oct. 15, Flor Collantes, Bayan Muna secretary general for Central Luzon, was gunned down. The day after, Rolly Mariano, a provincial officer of the party, was shot dead just outside his home, Virador said.

Hold GMA accountable

Ms Arroyo should be held accountable for Ramos’ murder and the killing of Rivera, and Bayan supporters Maniti and David, Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo said.

“This is a clear escalation of the killings and the responsibility goes up to the President. We’ve raised this matter four times before the President but she has not taken any decisive steps to prevent the killings,” Ocampo said at a press conference.

“This involves her (home) province and this is her region but these killings are happening,” he said.

Anakpawis party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran said Ramos’ killing might have been meant to divide groups seeking Ms Arroyo’s ouster.

“(Ramos’) brutal killing is linked to the Arroyo government’s desperate efforts to weaken the alliance between (former President) Aquino and the militant mass movement directed against the corrupt and illegitimate presidency,” he said in a statement.

Beltran challenged Aquino to condemn the killing and support efforts to bring the perpetrators to justice “even if they’re Cojuangcos.”

In a statement, Angie Ladera, secretary general of the Workers Alliance in Region III (War-III), said Ramos had an “uncompromising stance” in the negotiation to settle the labor dispute at the sugar mill.

Funeral wreath

In June, Ladera said Ramos received a box containing a funeral wreath and a note warning that his days were numbered.

Ladera said the sum that Catlu members received on Tuesday represented the management’s payment for earned wages and benefits for the two-month period before the strike.

The Department of Labor and Employment levied at least 8,000 bags of sugar kept inside the sugar mill.

Polintan noted that the crime scene was 50 meters from a military detachment.

Dogs

Soldiers, he said, bought the dogs in nearby houses apparently not for *pulutan* (bar chow) but to remove them from the site. Their barks when strangers were around used to serve as a warning to Ramos of possible assassins, Polintan said.

Lt. Col. Preme Monta, public information chief of the military’s Northern Luzon Command, called Polintan’s accusation “very unfair.”

“As a matter of policy, the military is ordered not to hurt people,” Monta said in a phone interview.

Nolcom, he said, would welcome any investigation if its soldiers were named suspects in Ramos’ killing.

Ladera said some of Ramos’ irate neighbors went to the military detachment after the slaying on Tuesday night. The soldiers were seen fleeing the area after the shooting, she said.

LIST OF MURDERED LEADERS AND MEMBERS OF PARTY-LIST GROUPS

NAME	DATE	LOCATION
BAYAN MUNA		
1. Ramon Ternida	April 15, 2001	Mindoro Oriental
2. Isidro Maniangit	April 27, 2001	Ligao City, Albay
3. Peter Dangiwan	April 30, 2001	Kalingan
4. Juanita Mesias Jr.	May 13, 2001	Leyte
5. Ricardo Romero	June 2, 2001	Laguna
6. Camenia Abatan	June 23, 2001	Davao del Norte
7. Constancio Gadon	June 24, 2001	Mindoro Oriental
8. Roberto Nepa	June 24, 2001	Davao del Norte
9. Milagros Belga	July 22, 2001	Laguna
10. Erwin Bacarra	August 1, 2001	Mindoro Oriental
11.Wilfredo Mananghaya	Sept. 20, 2001	Bulacan
12. Rolando Cabagay	Oct. 6, 2001	Mindoro Oriental
13. Roger Fernando	Oct. 8, 2001	Mindoro Oriental
14. Felipe Lapa	Oct. 25, 2001	Laguna
15. Nicanor delos Santos	December 08, 2001	Antipolo City
16. Emilio Santillan	March 12, 2002	Mindoro Oriental
17. Ildefonso Brucal	March 20, 2002	Mindoro Oriental
18. Warlito Nagasao	March 20, 2002	Isabela Bayan Muna
19. Expedito Albarillo	April 8, 2002	Mindoro Oriental
20. Manuela Albarillo	April 8, 2002	Mindoro Oriental
21. Osias Magarzo	May 8, 2002	Mindoro Oriental
22. Ruben Apolinar	May 20, 2002	Mindoro Oriental
23. Rodriga Apolinar	May 20, 2002	Mindoro Oriental
24. Nina Angela Apolinar	May 20, 2002	Mindoro Oriental
25. Ediiberto Napoles, Jr	May 28, 2002	Mindoro Oriental
26. Eduardo Mordido	June 27, 2002	Mindoro Oriental
27. Rizza Concha	August 24, 2002	Cebu
28. Oscar Sacdalan	November 23, 2002	Mindoro Oriental
29. Vedasco Lalong-Isip	November 23, 2002	Mindoro Oriental
30. Anthony Martinez	November, 23, 2002	Mindoro Oriental
31. Jake Soriano	May 15, 2003	Isabela
32. Vicente Bico	Nov. 6, 2003	San Pablo, Laguna
33. Romy Malabanan	December 23, 2003	Bay, Laguna
34. Felix Rosquites	January 8, 2004	Davao del Norte
35. Juvy Magsino	February 13, 2004	Mindoro Oriental
36. Leyma Fortu	February 13, 2004	Mindoro Oriental
37. Rodolfo Gogo	April 1, 2004	Compostela Valley
38. Jesus Bongalon	April 1, 2004	Bato, Camarines Sur
39. Charlie M. Davao	April 24, 2004	Compostela Valley
40. Ganadi Pinamaylan	April 24, 2004	Compostela Valley
41. Charlie Utag	April 24, 2004	Compostela Valley
42. Rogelio Perez	April 29, 2004	Paglibao, Quezon
43. Conrado Katigbak	May 13, 2004	Paglibao, Quezon
44. Henry Buduan	May 13, 2004	Compostela Valley
45. Merly Cabatay	June 9, 2004	Paglibao, Quezon
46. Pablito Ignacio	January 11, 2004	Sn. Ildefornso, Bulacan
47. Ronnie Almoete	February 6, 2005	Lucena City, Quezon
48. Abel Ladera	March 3, 2005	Tarlac City, Tarlac
49. Romy Sanchez	March 9, 2005	Baguio City, Benguet
50. Atty. Felidito C. Dacut	March 14, 2005	Tacloban City, Leyte
51. Alfredo Davis	April 16, 2005	Tacloban City, Leyte
52. Eddie Dimaano	May 19, 2005	Camarines Sur
53. Norman Bocar	Sept. 1, 2005	Borongan, Eastern Samar
54. Florante Collantes	Oct. 15, 2005	Camiling, Tarlac
55. Francisco Rivera	Oct. 26, 2005	Angeles City, Pampanga
ANAKPAWIS		
1. Pedro Pesares	November 2003	Compostela Valley
2. Olimpio Crame	unverified	Brgy. Suhotan, Calape, Bohol
3. Eddie Gumanoy	April 21, 2003	Naujan, Oriental Mindoro
4. Adrian Alegria	February 18, 2004	Sta.Cruz, Occidental Mindoro
5. Edwin Mascarinas	April 15, 2004	Bongabong,Oriental Mindoro
6. Isaias Manano Jr.	April 28, 2004	Calapan, Mindoro Oriental
7. Samuel Bandilla	October 15, 2004	Paseo de Legaspi, Tacloban City
8. Eliasar Monsalud	December 4, 2004	Josefina, Zamboanga del Sur
9. Concepcion Monsalud	December 4, 2004	Josefina, Zamboanga del Sur
10. Charlie Monsalud	December 4, 2004	Josefina, Zamboanga del Sur
11. Marcelino Beltran	December 8, 2004	Sta. Ignacia, Tarlac
12. Edmundo Salcedo	December 10, 2004	Daet, Camarines Sur
13. Francisco Gatdula	December 24, 2004	Sta. Cruz, Occidental Mindoro
14. Pedro Lazona	January 22, 2005	Tarlac
15. Crispin Amasona	February 15, 2005	Dingalan, Aurora
16. Ernesto Bang	March 10, 2005	Labo, Camarines Norte
17. Jose Guiriba	March 12, 2005	Donsol, Sorsogon
18. Joel Tolla Reyes	March 16, 2005	Panganiban, Camarines Norte
19. Henry Flores	March 16, 2005	Mandaue City, Cebu
20. Victor Concepcion	March 17, 2005	Pampanga Anakpawis
GABRIELA		
1. Susan Aringo	December 7, 2003	Sorsogon
2. Mely Carvajal	August 27, 2004	Sta. Rosa, Laguna
HACIENDA LUISITA KILLINGS		
7 people who were killed during the strike		
1. Jhaivie Basilio	November 16,2004	Tarlac City
2. Juancho Sanchez	November 16,2004	Tarlac City
3. Jessie Valdez	November 16,2004	Tarlac City
4. Jaime Pastidio	November 16,2004	Tarlac City
5. Jesus Laza	November 16,2004	Tarlac City
6. June David	November 16,2004	Tarlac City
7. Adriano Caballero Jr.	November 16,2004	Tarlac City
8. Abelardo Ladera	March 13, 2005	Tarlac City
9. Ricardo Ramos	Oct. 25, 2005	Tarlac City

SOURCES: BAYAN MUNA WEBSITE, PDI ARCHIVES

Senate releases . . .

From page A1

the agreement on July 25 nor was given authority by the President to negotiate or sign such an agreement.

“The President of the Philippines, presumably as a consequence of this inquiry, has ordered the Venable agreement be rescinded,” it said. “The potential damage to the country was thus aborted.”

Mystery donors

The mystery over the identity of the private donors who funded the agreement as well as the party who referred Venable to the government remained, the committee said. Therefore, it said it could not close the inquiry.

The panel said that the Ombudsman and justice secretary would be furnished a copy of the report “so they could take actions.”

“That’s entirely up to the Ombudsman and Department of Justice,” said Sen. Joker Arroyo, the committee chair.

“He’s a free man,” said the administration maverick. “He’s free as of now.”

However, Arroyo stressed the release was provisional. “We can’t close the proceedings because of some unanswered questions and that it may be reopened if the circumstances would warrant it. If the circumstances don’t warrant it, that’s it,” he said.

Asked what these circumstances are, Arroyo replied, “We can’t anticipate the conditions. For all you know the conditions will no longer be relevant.”

“There are so many problems facing the country, and the case of Gonzales might be past history,” he said.

The release order, which was to be transmitted to the Philippine Heart Center last night, ended Gonzales’ confinement and possibly the Senate’s standoff with Malacañang.

The senators cited Gonzales in contempt and ordered him detained for refusing to answer questions during the committee’s only hearing on Sept. 21 on the contract.

Later that same day, the 58-year-old Gonzales was whisked off to the Philippine Heart Center in Quezon City for hypertension. He has been confined there since.

The Senate’s treatment of Gonzales drew protests from Malacañang. It was seen as a factor in the issuance of Executive Order No. 464 a week later. This bars administration, police and military officials from appearing before congressional hearings without the President’s consent.

Further tests needed

In its report, the 17-member committee noted that the Senate physician, Dr. Mariano Blancia Jr., concluded that Gonzales needed “continued medical attention” after visiting him and conferring with his cardiologist on Tuesday.

“On the basis of the Senate physician’s report, the committee, for humanitarian considerations, hereby provisionally relieves Secretary Gonzales of the effects of his detention ... to enable him to avail [himself] of medical treatment of his choice,” it said.

2 ex-agriculture execs evade Senate probe

From page A1

department’s P728-million fertilizer fund for farmers was diverted to boost President Macapagal-Arroyo’s presidential campaign last year.

The hearing, led by Senate committee on agriculture chair, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., was scheduled to start at 1 p.m.

Miffed by the departure of Bolante and Lorenzo, Magsaysay said the Senate would ask the Bureau of Immigration to place the two on its watch list.

“We will ask the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation to let us know upon their arrival here so that we can compel them to attend, which includes bodily bringing them to the Senate for the next hearings,” Magsaysay said.

Lorenzo was on Cathay Pacific flight CX 900, which took off at 12:54 p.m. Bolante left at 12:30 a.m. via Philippine Airlines flight PR 102.

Special treatment

Bolante also appeared to have received special treatment from some officials of the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa). He was allowed to use the Naia Centennial Terminal 2’s presidential lounge while waiting for his flight after it was delayed for nearly two hours.

The presidential lounge is reserved for the use of the President, Vice President, former chief executives, ranking government officials, and other dignitaries.

A source said Bolante was booked on a first-class seat, allowing him to use PAL’s Mabuhay Lounge, which is reserved for first-class and business-class passengers.

Miaa public affairs office head, Judith Dolot, said that airport general manager Alfonso Cusi had ordered an investigation as to how Bolante was allowed to use the exclusive room because he “gave no authorization” for its use.

“He (Cusi) was not even aware that Mr. Bolante was going to leave at that time,” Dolot said.

Bolante and Cusi are among the government officials identified with First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo. They all belong to the Rotary Club.

Fugitive from truth

By flying out of the country ahead of a Senate inquiry into the alleged misuse of agriculture funds, Bolante has not only soiled his reputation but also bolstered suspicions “he was hiding” something, senators said.

The Senate committee on agriculture and food, together with the blue ribbon committee, pressed ahead with its afternoon hearing.

Magsaysay lamented that Bolante chose the “path to being a fugitive from truth and justice,” instead of shedding light on his role in the controversial disbursement of agriculture funds for other purposes.

“Instead of informing us and clarifying issues, he chose to fly,” the senator said in an interview.

The inquiry was an offshoot of a special report by the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, which showed that the budget department authorized the release of P728 million for the purchase of farm inputs and implements prior to the elections, but that this did not trickle down to the farmers.

Bolante was designated by Lorenzo, then agriculture secretary, to handle the fund in the run-up to last year’s elections.

Subpoena

The Senate tried to serve the subpoena on Bolante, now Rotary International director and treasurer, while he was presiding over a Rotary International conference at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel on Friday.

Apparently after getting wind of this, he made himself scarce. His lawyer, Antonio Zulueta, received the subpoena on his behalf, but he hinted his client wasn’t keen on attending the hearing.

Bolante, who resigned as agriculture undersecretary in September 2004, also snubbed the Senate’s first hearing on Oct. 6. His lawyer had explained they never received the invitation.

“Bolante showed his fear of testifying to clarify his role in the alleged misuse of taxpayers money to help millions of farmers. Flight means inability to justify,” Magsaysay later said in a text message.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Zulueta for comment at his law office, but he wasn’t around. He earlier said that his client was based in Manila, but often traveled abroad to attend Rotary International conferences.

Arrest warrant

In view of Bolante’s departure, Magsaysay said that he and the committee members would consider sending out an arrest warrant to compel Bolante to appear in the next hearing.

“Since he did not give us courtesy, the next step would be to send our security men to accompany him to attend the hearings. In effect, an arrest,” the senator said, but stressed that the matter would be decided by the entire committee.

He was also unsure if the warrant could be served abroad.

Without Bolante, Magsaysay said that the Senate could still rely on other resource persons, including former agriculture, budget and audit officials as well as farmers’ groups and nongovernment organizations, to get to the bottom of the anomaly.

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

78% of Iraqis approve new charter

BAGHDAD—IRAQ'S CONSTITUTION, A POST-Saddam Hussein milestone for the nation, has been adopted despite strong opposition from Sunni Arabs, officials said, while the number of US deaths in Iraq hit 2,000.

The Pentagon announced in Washington Tuesday that a US soldier, Staff Sergeant George Alexander, who was injured in Iraq, had died from his wounds in Texas, boosting the US death toll to 2,000 since the US-led invasion of 2003, according to the Iraq Coalition Casualty Count website.

However, the official Pentagon count, last updated on Tuesday, remained at 1,993 military personnel killed and more than 15,000 injured since the start of the war.

US President George W. Bush warned that the war "will require more sacrifice, more time and more resolve" and that "the best way to honor the sacrifice of our fallen troops is to complete the mission." The grim milestone prompted several US lawmakers to criticize the war policy.

"This is another tragic milestone in this costly war, in which too much blood has been spilled already," said Democratic Senator Robert Byrd.

In Baghdad, electoral commission spokesperson Farid Ayyar unveiled the long-awaited referendum results, saying: "It is an accomplishment for all Iraqis." He spoke 10 days after the landmark referendum on a charter that lays down a democratic future for the violence-wracked country.

Nationwide, 78 percent of Iraqis voted for the constitution, the commission said. A two-thirds majority voting against the constitution in at least three of Iraq's 18 provinces would have meant its rejection, a tally opponents failed to muster.

In the mainly Sunni northern province of Nineveh, which held the possible key to a rejection after an overwhelming "no" vote in two other provinces, just 55.08 percent voted "no." The United States and Britain were among the first to congratulate Iraq on the result.

"With their courageous vote, the Iraqi people have once again proved their determination to build a democracy united against extremism and violence," Bush said.

Britain's Foreign Secretary Jack Straw hailed the result as a milestone and looked forward to "maximum participation" in new elections to be held in two months' time.

But 2.1 million of Iraq's 15.5 million voters nonetheless opposed the constitution, largely a result of fears among Sunni Arabs that it will place too much power in the hands of regions and lead to a break-up of Iraq.

"The referendum led to a split instead of a union," said political science professor Hasan Bazaz. *AFP*

Another bird flu outbreak in China

HONG KONG—CHINA HAS REPORTED deadly bird flu in chickens and ducks in a village in the central province of Hunan, the Hong Kong government said, on the heels of another outbreak in an eastern province.

The World Health Organization has said the H5N1 strain of bird flu is endemic in poultry in China and across much of Asia, and it could only be a matter of time before it develops the ability to pass easily from human to human.

China notified Hong Kong of the latest outbreak on Tuesday, the government said.

"We understood that a total of 687 chickens and ducks showed signs of illness, of which 545 died. A total of 2,487 birds in the same batch, including the sick ones, were culled," the government said in a statement late on Tuesday.

It did not identify the village.

China, separately reported on Tuesday, an outbreak among farm geese in the eastern province of Anhui but said it had been brought under control with no reported human infections.

Tiny Hong Kong gets much of its food from the neighboring southern Chinese province of Guangdong, which borders Hunan.

The territory does not currently buy any poultry meat or live birds from Hunan but will bar any such imports from the province as a precaution, the government added. "We will monitor the development of the situation in the coming weeks," the government said.

There have been other recent outbreaks in far-western Xinjiang, Qinghai and in northern Inner Mongolia.

China's attempts to conceal the emergence of the SARS virus in 2003 have prompted fears among some experts that it has had more bird flu cases than officially recorded.

But experts and UN officials said they believe China is better prepared and more open than in 2003.

Local governments across China have set up monitoring stations to check poultry and people, Chinese media reports say. *Reuters*

Europe bans bird imports

BRUSSELS—THE EUropean Union agreed Tuesday to slap a ban on pet bird imports from the rest of the world, in its latest attempt to stop the spread of avian influenza across the continent.

The ban, initially valid for a month, came amid reports of a possible outbreak in Germany, which if confirmed, would be the first among birds in the wild in western Europe.

Concern was raised by the discovery of a lethal strain of bird flu in a parrot that died while in quarantine in Britain last week.

The EU import ban was agreed in Brussels by veterinary experts from the EU's 25 member states, based on proposals drawn up urgently by the European Commission following the British case.

"These measures... aim to strengthen further the EU's defenses against avian influenza," said the commission in a statement.

The global ban on pet bird imports, confirmed late Tuesday by the EU's Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health, will come into force as soon as formally approved by the EU commission in the next few days.

Under the commission's proposal, individuals could only import five birds as pets and would have to provide certificates proving that the birds were not infected.

"We feel that the main risk is through commercial imports, which are large scale imports," commission spokesperson Philip Tod said. About 232,000 pet and exotic birds have been imported into the EU over the past three months. *AFP*

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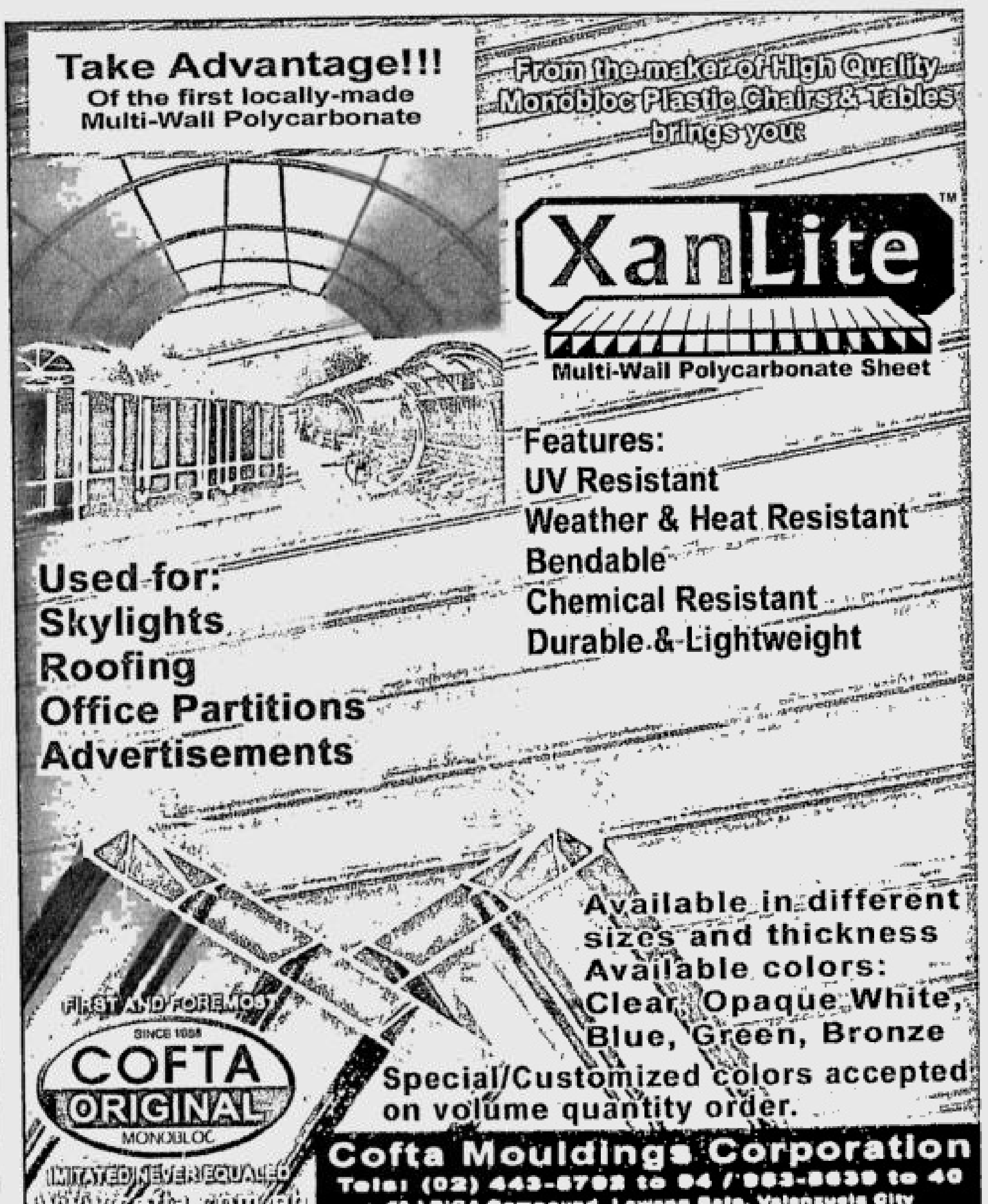
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US, France threaten sanctions on Syria

UNITED NATIONS—THE UNITED States and France on Tuesday circulated a draft resolution in the UN Security Council demanding that Syria arrest any of its nationals suspected of involvement in the murder of former Lebanese premier Rafiq Hariri.

The draft was worked out by the US and French UN envoys—John Bolton and Jean-Marc de la Sabliere—after the Security Council heard a briefing by UN chief investigator Detlev Mehlis on his damning report implicating senior Syrian and Lebanese security officials in last February's slaying.

The tough text, a copy of which was obtained by AFP, is being co-sponsored by Britain, diplomats said.

It called on Syria to "detain those Syrian officials or individuals whom the (UN enquiry) commission might consider as suspected of having been involved in this terrorist act, and make them fully and unconditionally available to the commission," it added.

It demanded that the Mehlis commission be allowed by Damascus "to interview Syrian officials or other individuals that the commission deems relevant to the inquiry outside Syria and/or outside the presence of any other Syrian official if the commission so requests."

The draft also called for sanctions by all states against all individuals designated or who might be designated in the future by the panel as suspects in the murder.

The sanctions include a travel ban and a freeze of assets.

The draft also said Syria must stop meddling in Lebanese domestic affairs, directly or indirectly, refrain from any attempt aimed at destabilizing Lebanon and respect its neighbor's sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence.

The text stipulated that to ensure the Mehlis panel's effectiveness it must enjoy full cooperation from Syrian authorities, including full access to all information and evidence in their possession as well as freedom of movement throughout Syrian territory.

AFP

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KASHMIRI boys carry a bag containing clothes at a earthquake-devastated Muzaffarabad, the capital c Kashmir on Oct. 26.

London bom

LONDON—THE ALLEGED RINGLEADER OF THE July 7 London bombers was recorded in an intelligence operation last year, the BBC reported on Tuesday.

Mohammed Sidique Khan, 30, was secretly filmed and recorded speaking to a British-based terror suspect, a source told the British Broadcasting Corporation.

The investigation suggested that he was in contact with activists from al-Qaida, Osama bin Laden's global terror network, for five years before the London blasts which killed 52 commuters and the four bombers themselves.

Khan "had extensive contacts with an internation-

WORLDBRIEFS

Court convicts 4 Arabs

DUESSELDORF, Germany—A German state court o Wednesday convicted four Arab men of plotting to attac Jewish targets in Germany and found three of them gui supporting a terrorist organization. The men were hande sentences ranging from five to eight years in prison. Thr the group were also found guilty of belonging to Al Tawh radical network believed to be linked to al-Qaida and hea by Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi—now a pro nent figure in Iraq.

Ex-Khmer Rouge arrested

PHNOM PENH—A former Khmer Rouge commander co victed in February of the 1994 murders of three Western backpackers but on the run from authorities was arreste Tuesday in Cambodia, an official told AFP. Cambodia Supreme Court ordered one-time guerrilla Chhouk Rin p for the abduction and murder of an Australian, Briton an Frenchman earlier this year but authorities had not mana to capture the 51-year-old. "He was arrested this afterno (Tuesday) at 1:00 p.m. (0600 GMT) in Oddar Meanchey province," interior ministry spokesperson Khieu Sop said.

Moroccan employees kidnappe

DUBAI—Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's al-Qaida group o Wednesday claimed responsibility in an Internet statem for the kidnapping of two employees of the Moroccan em bassy in Baghdad. "Your brothers in the military bran the al-Qaida group (in Iraq) have detained two Moroccan working for the Moroccan embassy in Baghdad," the sta ment on the group's website and signed by the grou spokesperson Abu Maissara Al-Iraqi said. The authentic of the statement could not be verified. Earlier the Moroc foreign affairs ministry said that the two employees had appeared on the road between the Jordanian capital Am and Baghdad—a road widely feared for repeated kidnap pings carried out by ordinary criminals or insurgen embassy identified the pair as driver Abderrahim B and agent Abdelkrim El Mouhafidi.

UN action sought on murde

BAGHDAD—A group of former foreign leaders bac defense of ousted Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein c Tuesday for a UN probe into the murder of an attor ing for one of his fellow accused. Defense lawyers appealed for UN protection following the kidnappir murder of Saadun Janabi just a day after the drama ing of the trial of Saddam and seven former cohort week. An investigation into the attack was an "urge sity," the former foreign leaders and ministers wro ter to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

Russia sued in US court

WASHINGTON—Investors in US-listed shares of R Yukos have filed suit alleging securities fraud by R ficials in auctioning off the oil giant without compe shareholders, lawyers said Tuesday. The suit filed in Wa ington said holders of shares known as American ry Receipts (ADRs), most of whom are US citizens estimated $6 billion as a result of the "de facto rena tion" of the oil company. Named as defendants in t the Russian Federation, the state-controlled firms Gazpromneft, Rosneft and Rosneftgaz as well as t of the companies, according to a statement from t ington law firm Covington and Burling.

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UN raises aid request for Pakistan quake victims

evacuation camp in
f Pakistan-administered
REUTERS

GENEVA—THE UNITED NATIONS raised its appeal for emergency relief for Pakistani earthquake victims to more than half a billion dollars Wednesday amid warnings that time is running out for millions of injured or homeless people.

"The revised appeal is $549.6 million," Elisabeth Byrs, a spokesperson for the UN humanitarian coordinator's office (OCHA) told AFP. "The needs are growing and many agencies are not being financed," Byrs added.

The request will be made to donor nations at a meeting in Geneva later on Wednesday, nearly three weeks after the quake destroyed Pakistani Kashmir, leaving 54,000 people dead and some 77,000 injured.

Relief agencies are trying to rush shelter and medical treatment to villages in the mountainous region before they are cut off by winter snow within around three weeks.

The UN has been struggling to fill its current appeal of $312 million for emergency relief over six months and says the shortage is slowing the relief effort.

It has received $68 million in committed cash and another $28 million in pledges from donors. The total amount represents just 17 percent of the new appeal, Byrs underlined.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan is due to press appeals for a speedier response during the meeting with 65 countries.

Pakistan's Senate chairman, Muhammad Soomro, and Minister for Economic Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar, are expected to outline the extent of destruction of life and property in Pakistan caused by the 7.6 magnitude earthquake.

The quake devastated an area of more than 28,000 sq km, depriving more than 1.1 million people of their jobs and reducing thousands of schools and hospitals to rubble, according to Pakistani officials.

"We need to sensitize the international community about the continuing and urgent need for humanitarian intervention to save lives, to provide shelter, and to stem the spread of disease," said Masood Khan, Pakistan's ambassador to the UN in Geneva.

Byrs said the UN refugee agency (UNHCR), which is delivering urgently needed tents for about 3.3 million homeless people in Pakistani Kashmir, and the World Food Programme, which provides food rations, were short of funding.

Bad weather has been forecast in the region this week, while snowfall is expected to ground most of the 100 or so helicopters ferrying help to isolated villages in the region by the middle of next month, according to the UN.

Aid workers have predicted a "second wave" of deaths if severely injured in isolated villages are left without care or shelter in the freezing cold of the Himalayan foothills.

French Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy and his Swiss counterpart Micheline Calmy-Rey head the list of ministers and senior national development or relief officials from western countries due at the Geneva meeting.

AFP

ber filmed in intelligence operation

l jihadi network which British intelligence either nissed or ignored", the BBC said.

He featured in a surveillance operation by intelligence services, according to the joint radio and televisioh investigation.

The BBC's source said he had seen photographs nd transcripts of a meeting between Khan and the uspect, who could not be named for legal reasons.

When the suspect was detained last year, the ource said Khan contacted him demanding an urgent meeting, wanting to know what the security ervices found out about the suspect.

The BBC said that on both occasions when the ource met Khan, he had three other men with him, who were not the three police named as the other London bombing suspects—raising the possibility that three other Khan associates "are still on the loose." The BBC said there was no independent corroboration that Khan was recorded talking to the terror suspect.

However, the report said that if correct, it would amount to "a serious failure of intelligence" leading up to the July bombings.

The information "would show the intelligence services had him well in their sights but allowed him to slip away".

Terror suspect Nasir Abbas, held in Indonesia over the 2002 Bali bombings, alleged that Khan travelled to Malaysia and the Philippines in 2001 to meet leaders of the extremist Islamist group Jemaah Islamiyah, closely lined to al-Qaida, the report said.

The BBC interviewed Singapore-based academic researcher Dr Rohan Gunaratna, who spoke to Abbas after the July attacks.

"He was received by Hambali who is the operation leader of Jemaah Islamiyah," Gunaratna told the BBC.

Alongside Abbas, he visited a training camp in the Philippines run by al-Qaida trainers, Gunaratna said.

The report also alleged that when Khan visited Pakistan in 2003 he met an Islamic extremist and al-Qaida fixer currently in US custody.

AFP

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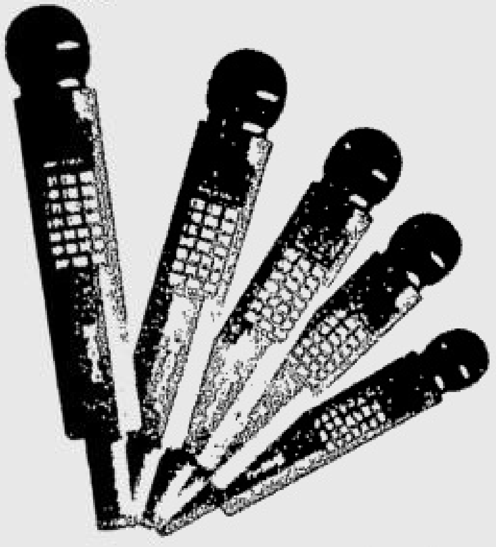

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OPINION

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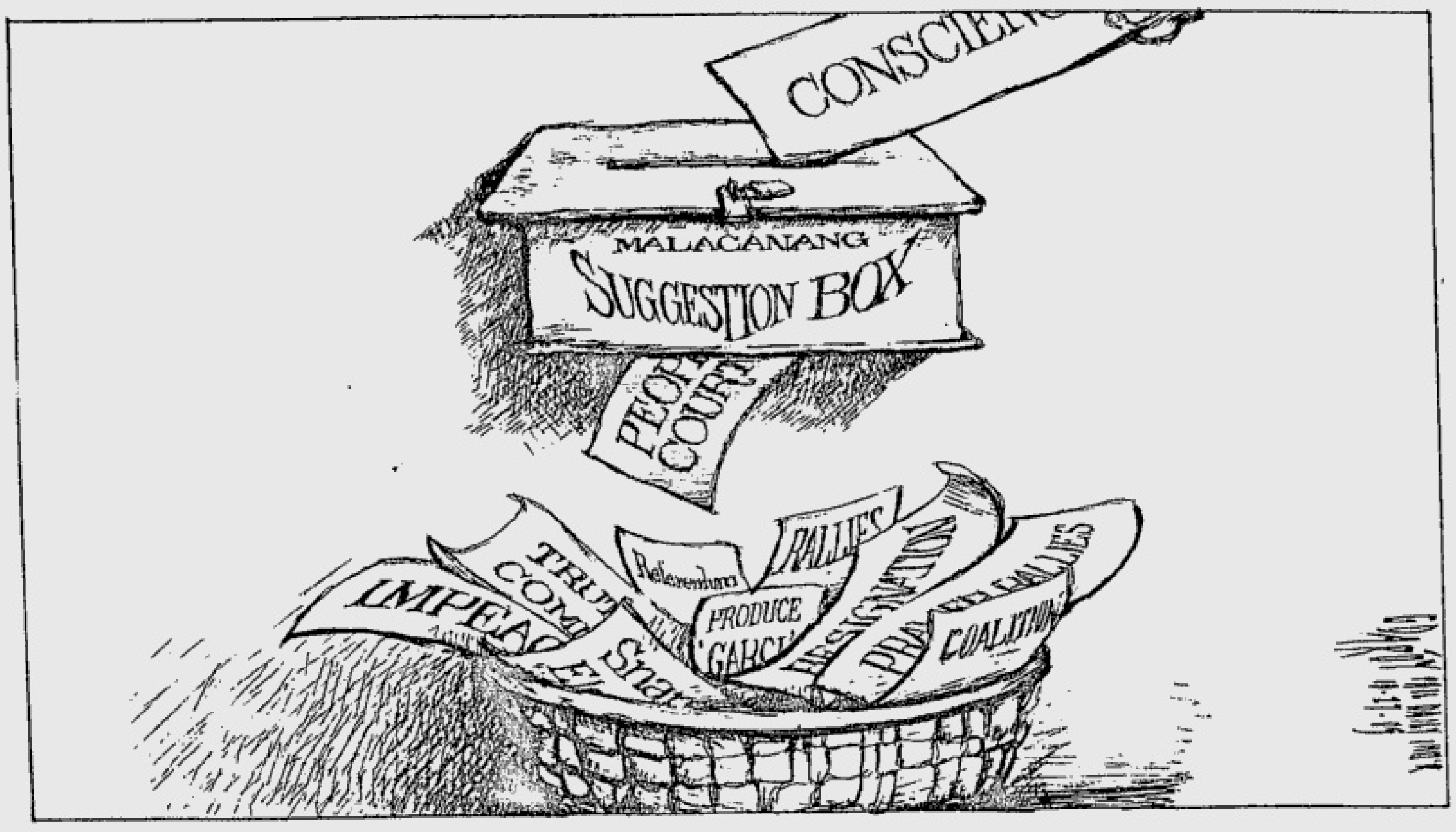

Passport to prosperity?

EDITORIAL

IS AN OVERSEAS JOB TRULY A PASSPORT TO A better life?

Few Filipinos would doubt it, as the long lines at the offices of job recruitment agencies attest. Now the World Bank has come up with figures to support a fact already widely known in every neighborhood: families of overseas Filipino workers earn higher incomes than most others, and their members are healthier and better educated.

A World Bank study, based on family incomes in 1997 and 1998, found that 51 percent of Filipino households which had at least one member working abroad could be counted among the country's top 25 percent family income earners; while 28 percent belonged to the next 25 percent. In fact, the $778 average annual income of an OFW family member was way above that of others, which amounted to only $456 a year. And while 31 percent of the families whose members stayed home remained poor, only 9 percent of OFW families couldn't cross the poverty line:

Even external shocks, like the 1997 Asian financial crisis, which sent the value of the peso down, seemed to have a positive economic impact, according to the World Bank study. Because of increased remittances of OFWs and, consequently, the higher budgets available to their families, the number of poor declined by 0.6 percent with every 10 percent increase in the peso equivalent of their foreign exchange remittances. This was because the higher exchange rate induced OFWs and their families to invest in some modest enterprises like taxi and minibus services and small manufacturing activities, like dressmaking, tailoring and food processing. (There's even something for those whose families remained intact. The study noted that many of them received gifts from OFWs or their families.)

So is overseas employment, perhaps, the magic carpet that will carry almost a third of our people out of their poverty?

There is hardly any need for further evidence to show that overseas employment has allowed hundreds of thousands of Filipino families to advance materially. Neither can it be denied that their foreign exchange remittances have propped up the peso and kept the economy afloat, contributing as much as 10 percent to the country's GNP. And now, in the absence of any study to contradict the findings of the World Bank, it has to be accepted that the deployment of Filipinos workers overseas has helped reduce the rate of poverty.

But has a similar effort been attempted to measure the costs as well? How many families have been broken by the absence of the father or mother, or both? How many children have dropped out of school or fallen into drug addiction for lack of parental advice or supervision? And how long can the nation sustain this policy of sending the unemployed—and the unhappily employed—abroad?

The World Bank study said 31 percent of our overseas workers had some college education and another 30 percent had a college degree. In a country where only 1 out of every 10 people earns a college degree, that is a heavy drain on our educated manpower. Unless we can replenish our stock of brain power as quickly as it is being depleted, we may be undermining our own capacity to grow and develop, or even just to function, as a nation.

The gathering crisis in our health sector, caused by the exodus of doctors and nurses, is an omen of even worse things to come. The government ought to draw up a comprehensive program that would not only seek to at least replace the professionals and technical people that we lose but also to keep those we have—by making staying more attractive and rewarding.

Filipino officials never fail to hail OFWs as heroes who help shore up the economy. Before we know it, we may be needing heroes who will save our people.

Pebbles and diamonds

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

WHICH PHILIPPINE CITY TRACKED THE health and growth of 3,080 kids for almost a generation and, in the process, reshaped policies and research programs, here and abroad?

Cebu City did, says the Economist. Its "Longitudinal Health and Nutrition Survey" anchored the findings of Harvard researchers that a vaccine driblet is worth "a drop of pure gold."

Economic spin-offs from vaccination turn up a 12.4 percent immediate rate of return, report Harvard's David Bloom, David Canning and Mark Weston. They had combed two long-term vaccination programs, one of them in Cebu. The return rate would crest 18 percent in 15 years.

Started in 1983 by San Carlos University, the study "follows the lives of 3,327 Filipina mothers and those of their children born in 1983 and 1984 (in 33 barangays)," the British opinion magazine notes.

"Among the data collected (over the last 23 years by USC's Office of Population Studies) were records of the vaccinations these children received as infants and their scores in language, maths and IQ tests at the age of 10."

Vaccination spurs savings and investments, the Harvard researchers conclude. It also speeds up the "demographic transition"—the shift from large to small families that economic development triggers.

These findings reinforce the $13-billion Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization program—a 15-year bid to vaccinate children in 75 of the world's poorest countries against a range of childhood diseases.

"The dispassionate economic case for vaccination, therefore, looks at least as strong as the compassionate medical one," the Economist states.

"It seems incredible," Sun Star Daily notes. "But parochial Cebu officials coasted along blissfully unaware of this valuable asset under their noses over the years. No one asked questions. But then, the blind see no difference between pebbles and diamonds."

Scholars and policy makers elsewhere were, however, getting answers. Many held that the potential for catch-up growth after age 2 was limited, especially when children are mired in poverty, wrote North Carolina University's Linda Adair. The Cebu study documented: "there's a large potential in catch-up growth in preadolescent years."

In her paper "Revisiting Infant and Child Mortality," UP Population Institute's Josefina Cabigon cites, among other reports, the Cebu study and concludes: "While other countries have undergone dramatic rises in survival and economic (growth), the Philippines has faltered…and followed a path of ensuing plateau in infant and child mortality levels."

"The first World Bank health financing strategy was based in large part on research conducted in Cebu City," economist Barry Popkin at University of North Carolina writes in Culture & Society quarterly.

The Cebu research was "instrumental in (the formulation of a) Unicef policy related to breast-milk substitutes and Asian Development Bank programs on early childhood development. Inter-generational studies are extremely rare," he adds.

Few run marathon races. The Cebu study required long range vision, provided by the late self-effacing priest-demographer: Fr. Wilhelm Flieger, SVD. Young Filipino demographers, trained by this scholar, tracked the outcomes over two decades.

USC's Soccoro Gultiano and Josefina Avila oversaw reinterviews in 1991-92 and again in 1994-95 to explore changes. Resurveys followed in 2003. "Children of the ongoing study are now adults," they note. "Some have dropped out of school. Others have become parents."

By the mid-'90s, this study-over-a-generation produced, 93 Ph.D. dissertations, reports—and counting. They've been published and read all over: in Oxford University, Journal of Development Economics and New Zealand University of Waikato—except by Cebu's officials.

A cursory 2005 search reveals that scientists continue to mine this rich lode for answers on problems ranging from infant deaths and feeding to fetal origins of adult diseases, etc.

The Regional Central American Institute, for example, matched the Cebu data with those of villages in Guatemala. Egypt applied the Cebu methodology to gauge the effects of water and sanitation on children. Russian demographers used the material to assess household expenditures and married women's resource position.

Prophets, however, are ignored in their own countries. Until his death in 1999, Father Flieger didn't raise a blip on the radar of loquacious Cebu politicians. Yet, he published landmark studies about their constituencies.

In "The Mountains of Cebu," Father Flieger crafted new tools for analyzing upland movements. OPS updated his "Cebu," a socio-economic profile based on census data.

Father Flieger co-authored "World Population" with Harvard University's professor emeritus Nathan Keyfitz Keyfitz. He was "the student, and later the associate of whom I was proudest," Keyfitz wrote after the former's death. "Of all the students who sat in my classes, he went far beyond his teacher."

Despite the punishing workload, Father Flieger "found a parish that lacked a pastor. Twice a week, he got into his little Volkswagen and drove to a point near O'Hare (airport) where he ministered to a congregation that could not but have appreciated his purposefulness."

"Father Flieger was priest, scientist, teacher—and Cebuano," a Sun Star obit said. Unfortunately, Cebu's leaders still remain unable to tell the difference between pebbles and diamonds.

(E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph)

Clarifications

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

WITH VARIOUS GROUPS CALLING FOR SNAP election today, I have to clarify my stand on it, something I have been advocating for some time now. My position is completely different from the ones being bandied about today.

The critical difference between my concept of snap election and theirs is that mine doesn't rely on GMA's participation in, much less permission for, it. Indeed, my concept is premised on GMA being removed from office in the first place.

A snap election that requires GMA's—or her supporters'—acquiescence to them is completely batty. And one that almost openly asks for the kind of insults it has gotten. "It's a cockeyed scheme," says Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who should know a thing or two about what cockeyed means. Clearly, she has forgotten what it means to be robbed of the presidency—though in her case that remains hugely arguable—and she would have us embrace someone who has patently committed the crime. "No to elections, yes to coalition," GMA herself says, as though stealing the vote could be exculpated by sharing the spoils with others. Well, one can't say that doesn't work in this country.

But why should we ask the permission of a squatter to evict her? All those schemes—and nowhere does the word "scheme" apply more than to anything that issues from the brain of Mike Velarde—that call for GMA to accept snap elections are doomed to fail. If indeed they are not veiled invitations for GMA to manipulate things to stay in power.

My concept of elections is something that takes place after GMA is evicted from Malacañang, one that any caretaker government should implement at the soonest possible time. An interim government that lasts for more than a few months is as much a threat to this country as GMA.

A snap election, as I see it, serves two basic functions. The first is that it restores order to this much disordered universe, or nation. It is the complete, perfect, and only answer to the problem. The problem is that we do not have an elected president, the answer is to have an elected president. The problem is that an injustice has been done to the voters, the answer is to give justice to the voters. The problem is that the people have been removed from the equation in this country: Even elections no longer depend on their will but are foreordained in advance. The answer is to bring the people back into the equation: Let us have clean elections and foreordain only the fate of Mr. Hello Garci and ilk in the Comelec.

But the call for snap elections serves one other vital function, which is to remove GMA from office. (Clean) elections after GMA goes are the only cause that can stir the people up to make sure GMA goes. No other alternative has the capacity to stoke action. Why should I risk life and limb just to put a transitional government in place? I will only risk life and limb to make sure that we will replace a usurper with a legitimate ruler. Clean elections are the Good to GMA's Evil, which is how People Power happens. You have to have both Good and Evil to have People Power. A story of Evil alone does not hack it, which is why more and more exposés about GMA's wrongdoing aren't hurting her anymore. You need to pose a Good against her Evil to get her out. Clean election is that Good, clean elections is that good enough.

But how do you get GMA out to have clean elections afterward?

Well, to repeat, you need to pose clean elections as the alternative. That is not an option, that is a necessity.

As to the methods, that is something we can argue to our hearts' content. I personally do not blame those who have given up on anything but a military solution to stop someone who will drag the country down the gutter first before she relinquishes power. This country's natural resistance to anything resembling a coup has been obliterated by the fact that what we have now is a coup, albeit one wrought with the aid of the Comelec rather than the AFP, Garci rather than Garand.

But I myself have not given up on People Power. At the very least, I have not given up on People Power in the traditional sense of people taking to the streets to oust a tyrant. As I said in a previous column, I do not believe that Filipinos have become apathetic and indifferent to storming the gates of hell to reach heaven. What I believe is that Filipinos have not been given a Good to embrace along with an Evil to cast to the fires of Hell. They have not been given a hope and dream to cling to, along with the darkness and despicableness they abhor. I go back to clean elections offering that hope and dream.

More than this, I most certainly have not given up on People Power in the non-traditional sense of the citizens refusing to be good citizens to a fake president. To this day, I cannot understand why no group protesting GMA has formally called for a civil disobedience campaign. Why do we have to march to Mendiola to provoke clashes when all we need to do is refuse to pay income taxes, refuse to pay dues for dollar remittances, refuse to go to our offices particularly for government workers, refuse to say Mass for priests (they would do better asking their flock to look for Jesus Christ in other ways), refuse to acknowledge that GMA exists. The idea that that will hurt us along with GMA is vapid. No one and nothing can hurt us more than GMA. All these will mean is that we will provide GMA and her cabal, which include their allies in Congress, with less money to steal and to pay off people to keep power.

Why should the citizens be powerless before someone who simply wills to rule without a mandate? Indeed, who refuses to step down amid the near-universal call by the populace for her to do so?

To her "I will not resign" we can always reply, "I will not obey."

Wise Noli

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO APPARENTly has more brains than what many concede to him. He has seen through the plan of a power-hungry mob to reduce him to a mere puppet. He doubtless realizes that, at some point, the opposition will discard him and install its own transitory council to be headed by Franklin Drilon, former President Aquino's undisguised *manok*. But as he correctly put it, "I'm not an option." He refuses to be cowed by deadlines imposed by a "fascistic group," as Sen. Joker Arroyo calls the 300 or so members of the Black and White Movement.

* * *

Last week, former President Fidel V. Ramos was quoted as saying that President Macapagal-Arroyo should make the "supreme sacrifice" of cutting her term short in 2007, as the country shifts to the parliamentary system. But more recently he was reported as saying it's also constitutional for both GMA and De Castro to resign, so that Drilon could assume the presidency and call an election in 45 days. No more mention of GMA's "supreme sacrifice" vis-à-vis Charter change. Were FVR's words twisted, as the media are wont to do these days?

But even assuming that GMA resigns, which she won't do, why compel De Castro to do the same? Why should he give up a post to which he was elected? FVR's recent statements have made some people suspect that Ms Aquino, who handpicked him for president in 1992, is now exacting her pound of flesh and that's why he's now pushing for Drilon to assume the presidency. But Drilon is unacceptable to many sectors, as the memory of his sweet-talking GMA in Iloilo is still fresh.

* * *

The idea of a snap election is being peddled not just by the opposition but also by FVR and El Shaddai's Mike Velarde. The media have also reported that Ricardo Cardinal Vidal has joined the call. Cebu's archbishop has vehemently denied this, stressing that he adheres to the CBCP position, which is to give priority attention to our deepening problems, such as poverty and the adverse effects of the EVAT. He probably realizes that a snap election cannot be held legally without amending the Constitution. In the unlikely event of a GMA resignation, moreover, De Castro should succeed.

* * *

The lawyer of our country's two top officials, Romulo Macalintal, points out that there is no legal or constitutional basis to shorten their terms by amending the Constitution. He says that if GMA "agrees" to shorten her term, that would constitute resignation, in which case De Castro should take over and it leaves the post of VP vacant (the post Drilon is angling for?). But GMA has made it clear she's not resigning and so, says Macalintal, in the absence of any constitutional or statutory provision, "she cannot be compelled to agree to any call to shorten her term." I suspect that a new Charter could affect GMA's term, but as her lawyer noted, it's a "very dangerous precedent" to shorten an official's tenure by amending the Charter, as it could start a vicious cycle of capricious change.

To solve this constitutional problem, Velarde has suggested that Congress pass a "bullet amendment" to allow a snap poll. To which House members retort, "Why be satisfied with a piece, when we can have the entire cake?" Meaning, why amend only one provision when the country is inexorably moving toward changing the Charter?

* * *

Perhaps few believe that Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay's challenge to the Speaker's leadership, which appears to have been quashed, was not without the blessings of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, who is said to be his bosom buddy. But apart from Pichay's obvious lack of stature and controversial reputation, it's not good for GMA to look unappreciative of all the unqualified support JDV and his wife Gina have given her in her political siege. The question his House allies are asking is, if GMA can do this to JDV, what about us who also stuck out our necks for her? Perhaps JDV's earlier statement that Charter change presents an opportunity to cut her term short, should she want to, did not sit well with GMA. But in life as in politics, true friends are real treasures because they are so few.

* * *

Wisdom is at last descending on the Senate, but the price it paid was quite steep. A recent SWS survey shows that majority of the people regard the Senate investigations as useless since no legislation has emerged from those interminable hearings. The popular perception is that all these hearings have been in aid of destabilization. The senators are now planning to close those investigations.

The results of SWS surveys show that the people cannot be fooled, and that a good lesson for the opposition. All their silly antics such as the politicians' "prayer" gatherings near Malacañang and now this people's court to "try" GMA's "crimes" are seen as nothing but destabilization gimmicks. All these antics should cease as the country faces more serious problems. For instance, the whole world is terribly worried about a bird-flu pandemic which could kill millions. Yet our country remains blissfully unprepared, as our leaders are engrossed with politics, thanks to the power-hungry opposition that won't give GMA one hour of peace.

* * *

'Tis the season for bazaars, and the biggest ever Inner Wheel Club of Manila annual Christmas bazaar, which is dubbed "Sari-Saring Shopping, Sari-Saring Tulong," will be held next Saturday, Nov. 5, at the World Trade Center on Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. It features apparel, handicrafts, toys, beauty products, household novelties, etc. The IWCM bazaar has been a major fund-raising activity for the club, led by Drina R. Ampil. Their proceeds support on-going projects such as its feeding program, day-care center, medical missions, scholarship program, sewing and computer training for out-of-school youths and housewives, and its geriatric wards at the National Center for Mental Health. For particulars, call the IWCM secretariat, 524-9914/522-1864.

Enriching the earth with our bodies

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

"YOU ARE NOTHING BUT AN INFINITESIMAL combination of earth's rocks, water and air; these are two billion years of evolutionary explorations, new trials, new combinations, new forms of life....beauty comes in knowing what you are and where you came and why you be, earth child." —Walt Whitman

During the long weekend ahead when we honor our dear departed, it behooves us to ponder on our mortality and immortality.

In the film "The Lion King," King Mufasa gives Simba, the future Lion King of Pride Rock, a lecture on life and death. "When we die," he tells his only begotten son, "our bodies become the grass. And the antelope eat grass. Then we become part of the great circle of life."

Human beings are the most notorious when it comes to the disruption of "the circle." By opting not to go back to the earth, humans have cut themselves off from the great circle. Burial practices have deprived our living planet of the enrichment it deserves.

Die-hard ecologists tell us that the best way to bury the dead is to dig a hole in the ground, gently lay the dead in there and cover it with soft, warm earth. There the dead breaks down into different elements and participates in the earth's life-giving process. Why consign a corpse to an airless, concrete tomb where it cannot enrich various life forms?

In the Christian religion, there will be a "Final Resurrection," sure, but in the meantime, people can help make little resurrections happen every day. Doesn't the Bible say: "Unless the grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies...." So what better way to show reverence for the sacred body than to give it back to the earth's great embrace?

Until some decades ago, Christianity, Catholicism in particular, eschewed cremation because of the literal understanding of the resurrection of bodies on the Final Judgment and reverence for the body as the temple of the Holy Spirit. But environmental awareness worldwide and the new fields of theology of creation and spirituality are changing the old thinking.

In the magnificent cycle of life, there is no place for cemeteries where the dead are imprisoned forever in impermeable boxes. The elements in dead bodies are not able to go back to the earth from where these came from in the first place.

Sr. Gloria Martires, a Franciscan nun, who had a doctorate in bio-science, was a strong proponent of direct burial in the ground. (She passed away some years ago and was not buried in the ground.) She said it is important to understand what happens to people's bodies when these go back to the earth from where they came. "The minerals from the dead bodies will be incorporated in green plants and grazing animals which will again enrich new living organisms—plants, animals, people—with the help of the power of the sun. Matter is not destroyed, it is only transformed. This is the transformation of matter from the abiotic to the biotic, with the power being supplied by the sun's energy, and then again to the abiotic (minerals in the soil). Rejuvenation is then accomplished."

The human body is composed of some 40 elements and 75 percent water. The moment a body becomes lifeless, decomposition sets in. Decomposition is simply the breaking down or simplification of organic matter, as when proteins are digested in the stomach and the small intestine. Decomposition, as accomplished by bacteria (an essential part of any ecosystem), releases the minerals or nutrients locked up in dead bodies so that recycling can be accomplished.

Martires challenged the belief (of those against cremation) that on the Last Day God will reassemble people's bodies like houses made of prefabricated materials. This is not her idea of the Final Resurrection. "We must bear in mind that our bodies are developed for nine months in the wombs of our biological mothers and that all the elements and atoms in our bodies came from the earth that has undergone evolution for billions of years."

So building palatial tombs to enclose bodies is out. Not only do cemeteries and memorial parks destroy what should be productive land, they also run counter to sound ecology.

So is cremation the thing? If the ashes that come out of the incinerator are kept in urns and bottles and not returned to the earth or sea where food could grow, they serve no purpose.

In India, the Parsis (the Parsi religion had its beginnings in Persia) give their dead a "sky burial" in Towers of Silence. (I've watched this from afar.) The vultures feast on the human remains that then come out as bird shjt that could fertilize the earth.

Martires winced at this "consumer-to-consumer" thing. Humans are on top of the food chain and, for Martires, being eaten by carnivorous birds doesn't seem right.

Martires wants to be buried in a rice field. People's repugnance for "*katas ng patay*" (corpse juice) going into their food is foolish, she said. If we bury dead pets near trees so they would bear much fruit, what's wrong with doing the same with human remains? When they break down into elements, they are as good as any other. It is not the *katas* but the soil that it has enriched that nourishes the tree.

Remember, ecology is interdependence, interconnectedness, relationships. As Chief Seattle said: "All things are connected like the blood that unites one's family. Whatever befalls the earth befalls the children of the earth." And whatever is given back returns again and again and lives forever.

Send feedback to cerespd@info.com.ph

China's aborted openness

COMMENTARY

Li Xiaorong

CHINA'S STATE-RUN XINHUA NEWS AGENCY recently reported on a government investigation into a string of forced sterilizations and abortions in the village of Linyi, Shandong province. The speed of the investigation—said to have begun days after the kidnapping of Chen Guangcheng, a blind activist who had been a public advocate for the victims—and the candor of the report created the impression of greater government responsiveness and bolder official media. Is this impression right?

According to reports, local authorities in Linyi, seeking to avoid exceeding birth quotas under China's "one-child" policy, forced several women and couples with more than one child to undergo abortion and sterilization. Villagers who hid to avoid the campaign reportedly saw their family members jailed. There were allegations of degrading treatment, torture and extortion.

Why investigate and report this scandal? The Xinhua reports, I believe, are best read as damage control.

China is trying to secure funding from the United Nations to improve reproductive health—an effort that has been set back by reports of forced abortion. Central authorities did not investigate the Linyi abuses until news of Chen's abduction—with the help of Beijing police—spread into international media.

Chen had reported the abuses to officials and asked a non-governmental organization, the Citizens' Rights Defense Group, to investigate. The group went to Linyi in May. A month later, the network of Chinese Human Rights Defenders reported the group's findings and demanded the intervention of the central government's Family Planning Commission (FPC).

As a volunteer for the network, I was in touch with Chen and followed events closely. In July, having failed to elicit any government response, Chen began seeking legal aid from prominent lawyers to prepare lawsuits on behalf of the victims, causing alarm among local officials. Pursued by the police, Chen went into hiding.

Following strenuous international protests over Chen's kidnapping, the FPC decided to investigate. Central authorities seemed to sense an immediate need to quell criticism of its controversial population-control efforts. And Xinhua wasted no time in claiming that the abuses were limited to a few towns.

However, central government authorities have done little to halt the intimidation of Linyi's villagers. Chen was released from detention but remains under house arrest. He was dragged back to the police station on Sept. 2 for unknown reasons.

The police refuse to return Chen's personal computer and cell phone. The village, too, is mysteriously without phone service. Meanwhile, through arrests, threats and bribery, authorities are forcing villagers to withdraw accounts of abuse and back out of their lawsuits. They also warn of the dire consequences of cooperating with Chen and the lawyers.

The FPC declines to intervene, citing lack of law-enforcement powers. On October 10, the villagers' lawyers were told that the court hearing scheduled that day was canceled. On their way back to Beijing, thugs reportedly assaulted the lawyers.

Viewed in this context, the belief that the government's approach to Linyi reflects a new responsiveness to human-rights abuses seems naïve. The fact is, we have not seen similar responses to the theft of farmlands, compromised investors' rights, or high-level corruption?

In all these cases, authorities have responded with repression, including the hiring of plain-clothes militias, to kidnap or beat up people who attempt to publicize problems. China's belated bouts of openness about the rural spread of AIDS and the SARS epidemic clearly indicate that the central government regards transparency solely as a matter of expediency.

Others argue that China's government is simply losing its grip over local authorities. This prospect is hardly encouraging. If abuses and repression in the provinces continue no matter how attentive the central government or how assertive the press might have become, what then?

More likely, the central authorities are following a policy that most Chinese know well: *neijin waisong*, or "controlled inside, relaxed outside." The policy means consolidating power at home while disarming critics abroad.

I believe that the government's loss of control in the provinces is stage-managed. Chaos provides a cover for crackdowns. It is too convenient when unidentified strongmen beat and harass activists who question Party rule, and it is too easy for officials to blame an out-of-control "criminal society" when international media start asking questions.

"Criminal" assaults have, indeed, suspiciously occurred in places other than Linyi. Thugs thrashed civil rights activist Lu Banglie in the Guangdong town of Taishi in early October. Six villagers in the Hebei village of Dingzhou, protesting government seizure of their land, died after bloody clashes with a gang of toughs in July. The list goes on.

State media recently started releasing year-end "mass incident" statistics. Last year, the government said, there were 74,000 such incidents. Observers marvel that China's leaders admit to such a staggering number of protests. But here, again, the government is hiding in plain sight. State-run media organs have been forced to admit that these protests test the Party's will to maintain power. They neglect to tell the real story of how the Party exercises that will, trusting that the admission itself will satisfy us. We should not be so quick to play along.

Project Syndicate

Li Xiaorong is a human rights researcher who specializes in reproductive rights and gender issues in developing nations. She taught philosophy at the People's University in Beijing.

No money, no opportunity

YOUNG BLOOD

Eugene A. Pet

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

FREQUENT REPORTS ABOUT PHYSICIANS LEAVING AS nurses and the difficulty of hiring new ones highlight the enormity of the problem of scarcity of doctors in our country. Leaving for greener pastures is the ambition of young doctors today, me included. In the company where I have been working for almost two years now, for example, there used to be 10 doctors. Two have left for the United States—one as a nurse and the other as a medical technologist—and the third to work as a physician in another country. Among the seven of us left here, three have already passed the nursing board exams, and two are planning to also take up nursing.

Only I and another colleague are left to pursue our medical career. I still want to train as an internist/cardiologist and my friend wants to go into ER medicine. But our resolve is dissolving fast, since it is becoming clear that there is nothing for us here—no opportunity and no cash. Slowly we are becoming open to the idea of working abroad for a better opportunity and a higher compensation. There are still opportunities for physicians abroad after all.

If our three colleagues who have already passed the nursing exams are having second thoughts about leaving immediately, it is only because our staff would be grossly under manned and there would be a crisis in our company.

But even with the relatively higher compensation we are receiving (compared to the pay in public and private hospitals), we are still hard pressed to attract doctors.

At this point, the issue is not just the shortage of physicians. The problem covers the entire system of health care because allied health professionals are also leaving. To provide decent health care to our people, the country needs a team of health care professionals. And I say "decent" because it is no longer possible to provide excellent health care, particularly to the underprivileged under our present circumstances.

The problem of compensation has been a long standing issue. At first, this forced nurses, medical technologist and other health professionals to emigrate. Now even physicians are forced to look for adequate income abroad.

It is lamentable to think that the problem is not getting the attention it deserves from the government, private hospitals and medical societies. All we hear are speeches on how dire or catastrophic the situation has become. Such noise has only drowned out the need to address the issue or even just appreciate the basic problems.

In order to reverse the current trend, the following issues must be adequately addressed:

First is compensation, the heart of the problem. The low pay and the high cost of living put great pressure on physicians and health professionals to earn more. There must be consensus on what constitute equitable salaries for physicians. There must be a minimum standard compensation that takes into consideration current economic conditions.

Second, young consultants should be allowed to practice in hospitals even if they are not stockholders without having to pay outrageous bonds to the hospital. This would broaden their patient base and, of course, add to their income. Getting into top hospitals today is mission impossible for young doctors because senior doctors put up all kinds of restrictions to their entry. This outdated practice must be discouraged, if not scrapped, altogether.

Thirdly, our legislators should stop considering legislation that goes against the interests of doctors and other health professionals. Passing such bills or even just threatening to pass them is like bludgeoning a person who is already down.

There are other issues crying to be addressed but these three are the more pressing. And they need to be resolved quickly if we want to stop the flood of doctors migrating to other countries.

What would it take for the government to recognize this problem which seems so obvious? What would it take for the senior physicians to go down from their pedestals and contribute a solution? What would it take for our people to notice the problem and begin demanding for solutions? Must we go on strike? Or should we start marching in the streets and waving placards, which seem fashionable these days?

We could to do these things to catch the attention of everyone concerned. But we don't have the luxury of time because we are busy—busy saving lives and giving medical care even as our ranks are being depleted, on top of trying to make both ends meet.

In the current political crisis, opinion makers and analysts have been talking about the "tipping point" when the military might intervene or the masses of our people will join protest actions. This has made me wonder when will be the tipping point of the issue of emigration of doctors and when it will begin to be addressed.

When physicians started to take up nursing so they could work abroad, very little was done to stop the trend. Now Australia and New Zealand are accepting doctors and our officials treat it like it is nothing more than a pin prick and hardly worth their attention. I see no concrete actions, no coherent agenda to keep our doctors.

I still remember a story that came out in the INQUIRER, projecting a shortage of physicians in the United States within 10 years. It has been three years since that story was published and I wonder if that would be the tipping point for our health care system. When the United States starts opening their borders to physicians, we will see an exodus unparalleled since Moses parted the Red Sea.

Some people appeal to our sense of patriotism to dissuade us from leaving, but this ignores the reality that most, if not all, of us would prefer to stay rather than leave our families behind. Others suggest a mandatory service after graduation, but this would just be like tightening one's grip on a jelly—the tighter you grip, the more it will slip from your fingers. It is not a lack of love for country that is making us leave. What is forcing us to leave is the lack of opportunities for professional advancement and earning decent incomes for ourselves and our families.

Dr. Eugene A. Pet, 29, is with the Elite Medical Consulting Corp. and works as vessel physician of m/s San Paolo owned by Negros Navigation Co. Inc.

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Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

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Forests are primarily for environment protection

THIS REFERS TO THE ARTICLE "Deforestation doesn't trigger floods, UN report says." (PDI, 10/14/05)

By belittling the significance of logging bans on the basis of its findings that forests do not prevent flooding, the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) has not only done forest conservation efforts a grave disservice. Worse, it has given governments and the logging industry an "authoritative" ground to justify more logging, even in heavily deforested countries such as the Philippines.

The report effectively discredits logging bans when it states that "when it comes to prevention of major floods, the 'sponge theory' is...often inappropriately used to justify soil and water conservation measures, forest management/and logging bans." Logging bans, however, are not imposed to prevent floods but to give time for the forests to regrow in order to prevent the loss of biodiversity and—as stated in the report—to reduce sedimentation which has adverse effects on aquatic life, reservoir life, potable water quality, irrigation quality and navigation.

Logging bans are imposed in order to protect the forests, which provide a multitude of important environmental services—regardless of whether or not they prevent floods. Logging bans may also be the last remaining remedy against over-logging (legal or illegal). And, if coupled with strong law enforcement, could be the effective initial step to curb illegal logging.

At present, we do not intend to take a position on the scientific findings of the UN FAO/CIFOR report. But since the report asserts that with or without lush forests, catastrophic flooding will occur, how then do we explain the experience of severely deforested areas such as the Philippines and Indonesia where catastrophic flash flooding and landslides occur even during regular rainfall?

Clearly, the manner in which the report treats the issue of logging bans at a time when catastrophic landslides have become a common occurrence is deplorable. It seems to show an appalling lack of concern for forest conservation which, particularly in developing countries like the Philippines, already faces a difficult struggle against weak forest law enforcement mechanisms.

—VON HERNANDEZ,
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Paranoia in government?

IN ITS SEPT. 21 ISSUE, AN INQUIRER news item quoted a US FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) report, dated July 16, 2005: "As time ticked out for her administration, it was clear that the biggest problem was Arroyo herself, a 58-year-old, US-educated economist...Quoting 'most observers,' the report said Mrs. Arroyo had 'always exhibited paranoia and need to control every aspect of the Philippine economy and politics.'"

According to Wikipedia, "the free encyclopedia" on the Net, "In popular culture, the term paranoia is usually used to describe excessive concern about one's own well-being, sometimes suggesting a person holds persecutory beliefs concerning a threat to themselves or their property and is often linked to a belief in conspiracy theories." Under the heading of "Examples of clinical paranoia," the encyclopedia mentions that "Many despotic rulers (for example, Stalin) allegedly suffered from paranoia...in Stalin's case, it is quite likely that many people really were out to get him...prompting the joke that 'Just because you're paranoid doesn't mean that they're not out to get you.'"

Is this the reason the administration claims that there is a conspiracy to assassinate the President, as alleged by Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago based on what somebody heard from somebody who was chattering away? Moreover, Senator Santiago accused Senate President Franklin Drilon and former President Corazon Aquino, both of whom had called for Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's resignation, of leading the conspiracy.

Executive Order 464 is clearly intended to control the actions of Cabinet and other executive officials, as well as military and police officers, even beyond what is allowed by the Constitution. The calibrated preemptive response to demonstrations is a policy to confront supposed "persecutory" acts, even though the freedom of the people to assemble peaceably and petition the government for redress of grievances is guaranteed by the Constitution. Administration claims that the Senate is "out" to get the President through the use of its powers to investigate in aid of legislation may be based on a "persecutory" complex.

Is the administration circling its wagons against a people imagined to be attacking it? Was the FBI report, as quoted by PDI, right in saying that "history will not treat Arroyo's presidency as a particularly good one for the Philippines?"

—MANUEL F. ALMARIO,
mfalmario@yahoo.com

Ours is not a hopeless society

IT'S SADDENING TO SEE FILIPInos hurting their fellow Filipinos during protest marches, some feeling compelled to do so by a sense of duty or by force of conviction. History tells us how Filipinos fought for democracy in the past, many laying down their lives for the cause.

We, Filipinos, the *masa* and the elite, regardless of social status, were united in the 1980s in the struggle to restore democracy in our country. Today, the struggle seems to have been tainted by selfish agenda, political interests and the desire for grandstanding and lust for power.

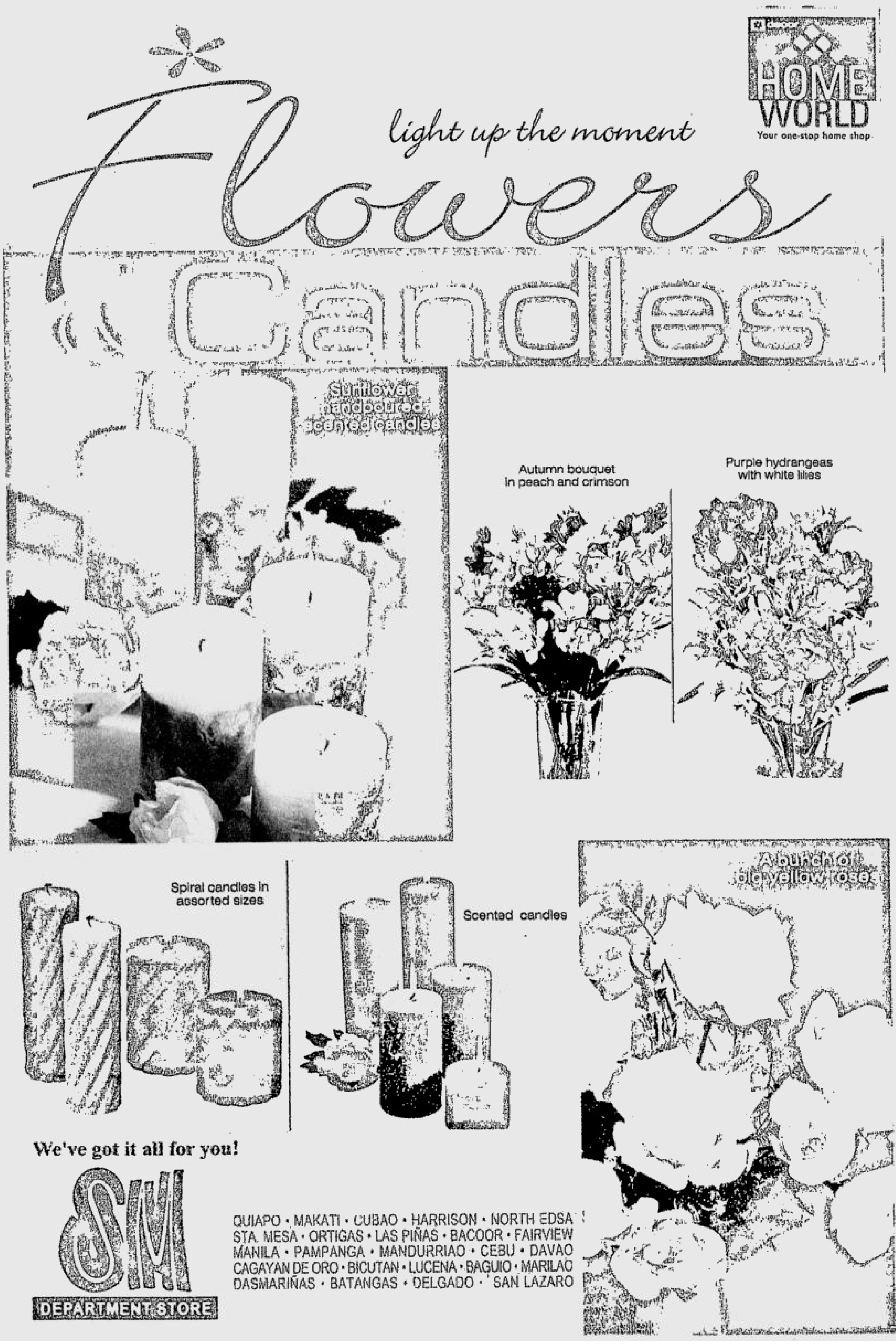
In my view, this is why those in the government could quickly dismiss the sacrifices of the street marchers as part of a power-grab conspiracy and selfish ambitions. And it's sad that the media seem to have fallen into this mindset. And, maybe, this is also why other Filipinos have opted not to join the street protests though they are sympathetic to the protesters' cause.

I may be wrong, but I think the the rule of law works in our country better than in our neighbors, such as Bangladesh, Nepal, Burma, Sri Lanka and Cambodia.

I believe that ours is not yet a hopeless society, contrary to what others would like to depict it, despite its weaknesses. There are still good public servants; we have our watchdog media, the civil society, religious leaders and others.

Time must come that we must learn to understand each other, admit our imperfections and work for the common good.

—DANILO REYES,
Intern, Asian Human Rights
Commission (AHRC) 19th Floor
Go-Up Commercial Bldg.,
998 Canton Road, Mongkok,
Kowloon, Hong Kong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₱90-M bond scam surfaces in Clark

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—NOT ONLY has the Clark Development Corp. been had. It has also been given the run-around in its claim against the insurer of a bidder which almost bagged the privatization of the sprawling Mimosa Leisure Estate here, CDC officials on Thursday said.

And to ensure that it could collect more than P90 million in damages and other fees, the CDC is suing the Filipino insurer of I. A. Campbell & Associates, one of the two bidders for the development of the 210-hectare prime estate, which submitted spurious documents in its bid to win the privatization project last year.

"We're calling on the bond," CDC executive vice president Victor Jose Luciano told the INQUIRER.

Luciano said the "spurious and/or fictitious" submission by Campbell prejudiced the efforts of the government, through the state-owned CDC, to proceed with the privatization of the leisure property as a prime tourist and recreational destination in Central Luzon.

Another official, who declined to be named, said the case has the making of a bond scam, adding that the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel has endorsed the filing of the case in court.

In a 10-page suit, the CDC is seeking the forfeiture in its favor of Campbell's P69,011,575 bidder's bond issued by Prudential Guarantee & Assurance Inc. and over P20 million more in interests and legal fees.

The case stemmed from the refusal of Prudential Guarantee to pay CDC the bond despite repeated demands since June last year following a final declaration of failure of bidding of the Mimosa property. The bidding failure was prompted by findings that Campbell submitted "spurious and/or fictitious" documents to support its bid for the project.

CDC records show that early last year, Campbell and its partners El Costa Realty & Dev't Corp. and P. T. Global Services, submitted a sealed bid for the 25-year development, management and operation of the Mimosa Estate and its existing facilities.

The government took over Mimosa's operations after its former operator failed to pay lease worth at least P500 million in 1998.

But upon opening of the first envelope in March last year, the proposal did not include the required bank certification that the amount of $25 million is earmarked for the privatization project.

The CDC declared a failure of bidding. Campbell appealed and was granted a decision allowing it to submit documents to show proof of availability of funds for the project.

In a letter dated March 29, 2004, Campbell advised CDC of a facsimile transmission of a certification purportedly issued by Chase Bank of Texas, N. A., Houston certifying that the bank received and approved the request for the transfer of funds amounting to $50 million for the Mimosa project. The letter was signed by a certain Pedro Garcia Jr., Campbell vice president for finance and treasurer.

"After due diligence and investigation conducted by (CDC), it was found that the letter purportedly issued by Chase Bank was spurious/and or fictitious...," CDC said in the complaint. Officials said the name Chase Bank of Texas is no longer in use since its merger with the Chase Manhattan Bank in 2000.

The findings prompted CDC to declare the bidding a failure pursuant to the rules and regulations of Republic Act No. 9184, the Government Procurement Reform Act. The law says the submission of fake or spurious bidding documents is a criminal act.

On April 23, CDC requested Prudential Guarantee for a written and notarized validation of the security bid/bidder's bond it issued on March 15. On May 3 of the same year, CDC received through facsimile transmission the certification of Prudential that the bid security is "valid and callable on demand."

On June 17, CDC demanded its claim against the bid security issued by Prudential, but the firm denied the claim on the ground that its principal, Campbell, was not awarded the project.

CDC reiterated its claim on July 22, 2004, stating that the award of the project is not a condition for the claim to be valid. It gave Prudential 15 days to comply but to no avail. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

ROUNDUP

Another village chief killed

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Suspected communist rebels shot and killed the village chief of Camias in Porac town on Sunday. Police said Bienvenido Capuno, 40, was inside a videoke bar in Barangay Pio in Porac when two men armed with .45 cal. pistols arrived and shot him. A bar employee, identified as Sarah Lumanlan, was hit by a stray bullet in the left leg.

Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk

2 MNLF groups clash

COTABATO CITY—Two groups of former rebels belonging to the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) clashed in Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat for two days, sending villagers fleeing to evacuation centers, Palimbang Mayor Samrod Mamansual said Wednesday. Mamansual said villagers of Barangay Maganao were forced to flee after armed followers of Djok Maulana and Pangansayan Timbao Malagim exchanged fire starting Sunday. There was no reported casualty on either side. Mamansual said a peace dialog, brokered by Moro elders, civil and military officials, was immediately held involving the warring parties. Maj. Gen. Agustin Dema-ala, chief of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said additional troops from the 7th Infantry Battalion were also deployed to serve as a peacekeeping force.

Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Kids' program wins award

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

COTABATO CITY—A radio program hosted by children, which airs over radio stations dxMS here and dxND in Kidapawan City, bagged one of the prestigious awards recently handed by the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP). Usapang Pambata, which is jointly sponsored by the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) and the Cotabato provincial government, was judged "Best Children Radio Program," during the recent KBP Golden Dove awards. The program, which simultaneously air every 6 p.m. Saturdays over the two stations owned by the Notre Dame Broadcasting Corp. (NDBC), is hosted by Randy Gumanao, 14, Kurt Solis, 14, Dianne Gumanao, 9, Maya Nneka Piñol, 14, and Mariel Pareño, 11. The hosts discuss issues and concerns facing the youth of today. "It gives us the voice, it gives us the opportunity to discuss things that directly and indirectly affect us," Maya, daughter of Magpet Mayor Efren Piñol, said of Usapang Pambata. Angie Pareño, who directs the program, said the citation they got should inspire the youth to pursue similar programs.

Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

NPAs attack for taxes

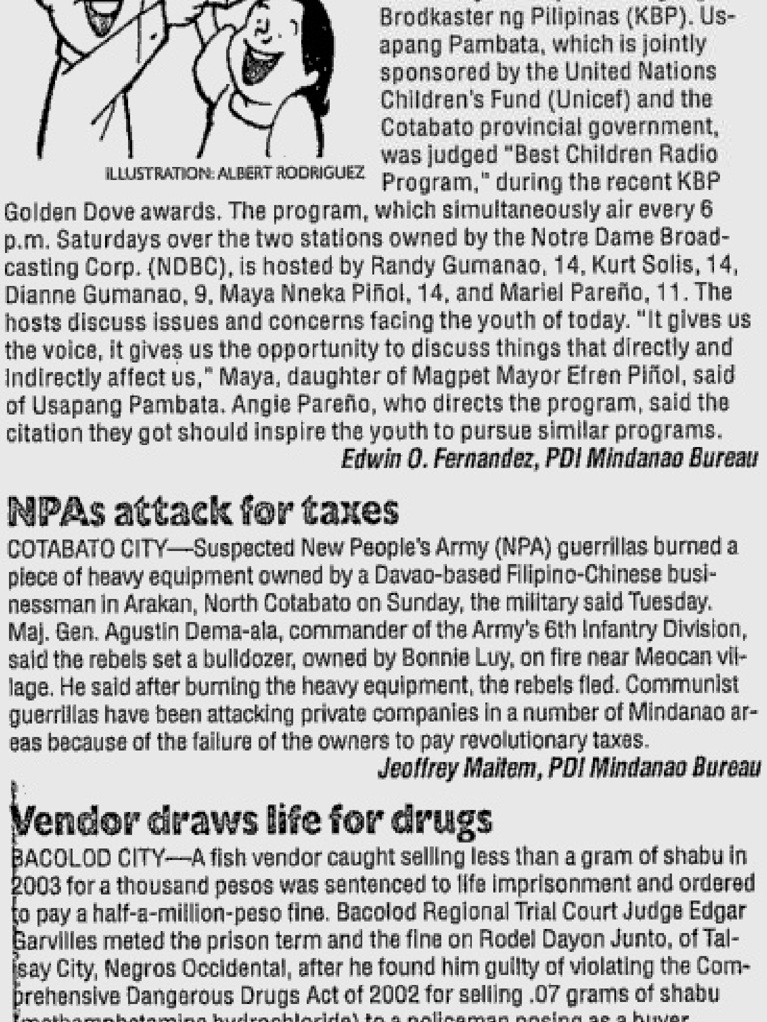
COTABATO CITY—Suspected New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas burned a piece of heavy equipment owned by a Davao-based Filipino-Chinese businessman in Arakan, North Cotabato on Sunday, the military said Tuesday. Maj. Gen. Agustin Dema-ala, commander of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said the rebels set a bulldozer, owned by Bonnie Luy, on fire near Meocan village. He said after burning the heavy equipment, the rebels fled. Communist guerrillas have been attacking private companies in a number of Mindanao areas because of the failure of the owners to pay revolutionary taxes.

Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau

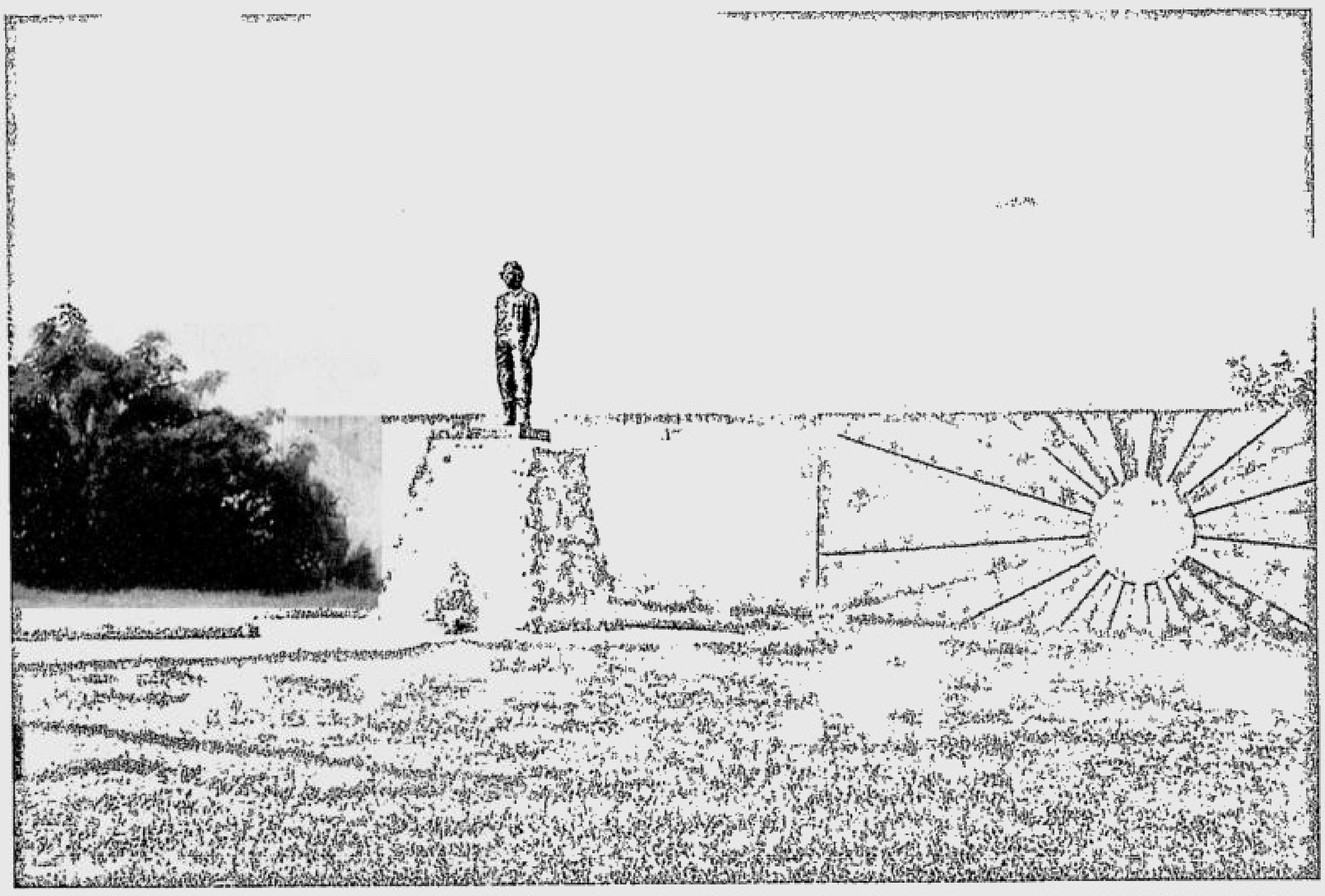
Vendor draws life for drugs

BACOLOD CITY—A fish vendor caught selling less than a gram of shabu in 2003 for a thousand pesos was sentenced to life imprisonment and ordered to pay a half-a-million-peso fine. Bacolod Regional Trial Court Judge Edgar Garvilles meted the prison term and the fine on Rodel Dayon Junto, of Talisay City, Negros Occidental, after he found him guilty of violating the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 for selling .07 grams of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) to a policeman posing as a buyer. Garvilles also ordered the turnover of the forfeited .07 grams of shabu to the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency and the immediate commitment of Junto to the national penitentiary. Junto was similarly charged and had pleaded guilty in a previous drug case. He was jailed for a year for that case.

Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau


MARITIME OFFICIALS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

President Arroyo recently swore into office the officers of the Maritime Lawyers Association of the Philippines (Marlaw) in Malacañang. To the President's right is Ulysses T. Sevilla, executive vice president of Marlaw.


ONE OF the controversial monuments in honor of Kamikaze pilots and which victims of sex slavery by Japanese forces in World War II want demolished.
TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Sex slaves vent ire on Kamikaze monuments

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

MABALACAT, PAMPANGA—A group of victims of sexual slavery by the Japanese military during World War II reiterated on Tuesday its demand to tear down a monument honoring the Kamikaze pilots, who composed the Japanese Imperial Army's suicide squadrons.

This came as a Buddhist bishop on Tuesday led local officials and Japanese citizens in rites held for the 61st anniversary of the founding of the Kamikaze.

"We are appealing for its demolition because Kamikaze pilots are not heroes and we, victims of Japanese atrocities, are still fighting for justice," Isabelita Vinuya, the leader of the Malaya Lola, told the INQUIRER by phone from Mapanique, Candaba, some 40 km from here.

Survivors

The Malaya Lola is a group of women aged 65 to 92 who broke their silence in 1996 on the mass rape of women in their village in 1944. At least 65 of them are living.

At least 26 of their colleagues had died since they aired their demands for an official apology and reparation from the Japanese government.

"In the first place, that monument should not have been built at all because in our history, we Filipinos suffered a war that was not of our own making and we women were among those they oppressed," Vinuya, 71, said.

At 11 a.m. Tuesday, Ekan Ikeguchi, a Buddhist bishop, led the prayers, the wreath laying and unveiling of markers at the east airfield in Barangay Cacutud where the bronze statue of a Kamikaze pilot was erected on a pedestal.

Prayers

The rites were held also in time for the eighth anniversary of the declaration of the Clark-Mabalacat area as a "City of World Peace."

The early morning hours were spent saying Buddhist prayers before the huge image of the Goddess of Mercy in Clark's Lily Hill and at west airfield at Clark's ammunition dump. All three sites belonged to the Japanese base that extended from Angeles City in Pampanga to Bamban town in Tarlac.

It was at the east airfield where Vice Adm. Takijuro Ohnishi organized special attack forces or tokko-tai on Oct. 19, 1944, from the Air Group 201, accounts showed.

From Mabalacat outside of Clark, the pilots, strapped with 250-kg bombs, crashed their planes into warships of the United States.

Ikeguchi said his annual pilgrimage was about seeking world peace and an end to present wars. The bishop, who grew up near a military camp, said World War II provided lessons to humanity in terms of the sanctity of life.

Out of shame for the defeat of the Japanese Imperial Army, the bishop said his people have buried the memories of the Kamikaze pilots—young men who offered their lives as the ultimate sacrifice for country and the emperor.

Ikeguchi viewed them not as heroes but victims.

Apologies

Mayor Marino Morales apologized to the Malaya Lola but the Kamikaze monument, he said, was not meant to offend the sensibilities of the former sex slaves.

"We did not also build this to glorify the Kamikaze. To us, it simply is a reminder to anyone that the Kamikaze phenomenon, the sending of young men to war, should never happen again," Morales said.

Vinuya said that if Ikeguchi was serious about securing genuine and lasting peace, he should help the Malaya Lola in its quest for justice from the Japanese government.

"Prayers are not enough. Peace comes from justice. Don't make war history a tourism attraction," said Vinuya.

Concom not rubber stamp, says its chair

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—THE 49-MEMBER Consultative Commission (Concom) is not a rubber stamp.

Prof. Jose Abueva, Concom chair, made the statement as he dismissed allegations that the body was formed just to carry out a mandate from President Macapagal-Arroyo to shift to a parliamentary-federal system of government.

"I would like to say very strongly that it is unfair and untrue to call the constitutional commission a rubber stamp," Abueva told the INQUIRER before the start of the news conference on the launching of the regional consultations on Charter change in the Waterfront Hotel and Casino in Barangay Lahug in this city.

"If the media want to observe us at work, they are free to come. We are open and they can judge for themselves how we conduct our debates," he added.

Abueva said the Concom members were "honorable" individuals.

"We are chosen, I would believe, because we have competence and we have integrity and we speak out our minds frankly and straight. And as chairman of the consultative commission, I can say that our debates have been very very lively. Our members are very outspoken and independent-minded. They speak out their minds, so this is not a rubber stamp body," he said.

He cited the result of a voting last Thursday on the shift from a presidential to a parliamentary form of government.

He said many members were in favor of a parliamentary form. But a few were opposed and wanted the presidential system retained but improved.

Although those who favored the presidential system were outvoted, Abueva said the result was not final because public consultations have to be conducted.

Asked why they held a voting before conducting the consultations, Abueva replied: "We were trying to sound out how we stand as a body."

"If 37 of us favored the shift to a parliamentary system and only two were in favor of keeping the present form, that is the honest distribution of opinion," he added.

"But this is not final, this is just a preliminary determination of our opinion and sentiments," he said.

Asked on allegations that the consultations were "*lutong makaw* (rigged)," Abueva replied that only the "prejudiced" would say that.

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

Women victims find rainbow in shelter

A RESIDENT recovers from her trauma through work at the center run by Good Shepherd Nuns. JUAN ESCANDOR

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Naga City

GINA'S WOUNDS MAY HAVE already healed, but the pain of being repeatedly raped by her father a decade ago persists.

Her story has become more tragic after her mother blamed, condemned and punished her for what happened.

Gina (not her real name) ran away from home and was later referred to the Department of Social Welfare and Development. In turn, the agency recommended her to Good Shepherd nuns who provide temporary shelter and rehabilitation services for sexually abused girls and women in Naga City.

Now 22, Gina helps social workers and nuns manage newcomers at the Hablondawani Integrated Services for Girls and Women in Crisis or simply Hablondawani.

Rainbow

Hablondawani (archaic Bicol term for rainbow) has been giving hope for sexually abused girls and women since 1994. It has seven programs to rebuild their lives, combining spiritual nurturing with psychological, medical, educational, legal and therapeutic measures.

For more than a decade, it has been providing the women victims temporary shelter and therapy, counseling and legal, educational and medical assistance. It has also been involved in women's advocacy work, network development, and alternative livelihood training.

NUNS running the center mingle with victims of abuse that took shelter in the Hablondawani. JUAN ESCANDOR

The home can accommodate at least 15 residents, according to Sr. Mary Virgo, its administrator. But she said the number of cases being referred to them has been consistently growing every year.

This year, Archbishop Leonardo Legaspi of the Archdiocese of Caceres, one of the prime movers of the program, volunteered to provide a shelter extension so that Hablondawani could accept more victims referred to them.

Sister Mary said the victims had no choice but to leave their homes and loved ones because the abusers still live with their families.

Seven of the 10 residents are girls, aged 2 to 18 years old, who are victims of incest. Incest totally destroys the trust of children on their loved ones who are supposedly their immediate protectors, according to Sr. Regina Fiel, a therapist.

Depression

The younger the victim, the deeper the psychological impact, which usually requires a longer healing process, Sister Regina said.

"There seems to be many more children, still undocumented or unreported, who suffer sexual abuses from the very persons they must trust," she said.

Sister Mary expressed alarm over the "very high" record of incestuous rape among the residents, even as she hoped that the trend did not show the true picture at the community level.

She said 81 of the 114 girls they had sheltered and cared for were abused sexually by relatives.

Poverty is a contributing factor for incestuous rape, the administrator added. Of the cases the center handled, the majority belonged to the poorest of the poor families. Sister Mary said no one came from middle-class families.

Most of the victims live in one-room homes where privacy is a luxury. Sometimes, the mother would be out doing work as house help, store help or factory worker.

Some sexual abuse cases happened even when the women had just given birth and their partners were under the influence of liquor or drugs.

All the victims confessed to receiving threats to their lives from their tormentors, she said.

Of the 114 cases it has handled, the Hablondawani has facilitated the filing in court of 88. One offender received the death penalty, eight got life imprisonment, and one had a 17-year prison term.

Three have been acquitted for lack of evidence.

Moving on

Sr. Corazon Nido, a facilitator of the occupational therapy services, expressed relief and fulfillment for former residents who have moved on.

One of them is now studying in a primary school while her mother, who had confessed to being forced to serve as a sex slave by her common-law husband, her daughter's abuser, has graduated with a hotel and restaurant management degree and is now living independently with her daughter.

Hablondawani gave the mother educational assistance after she decided to escape from her common-law husband and reported him to the authorities.

Another victim, Sister Corazon said, had graduated from an agricultural college with honors and had recovered with a whole new life ahead of her.

Other residents have been reintegrated into their families as the relative-offenders have been placed in the custody of authorities while waiting for decisions on the cases filed against them before different courts, Sister Corazon added.

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Tiangco offers Navotas to MMDA after Montalban closes dump

By Nancy C. Carvajal
and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

TO HELP AVERT A POSSIBLE garbage crisis, Navotas is offering its Tanza dump for use by Metro Manila.

"I am open to the possibility of Metro Manila Development Authority's using the Tanza dump as substitute," said Mayor Toby Tiangco.

Tiangco made the offer after Rodriguez, Rizal Mayor Pedro Cuerpo banned the MMDA from using the Montalban Solid Waste Disposal Facility.

Cuerpo clarified yesterday that the facility was only closed to garbage coming from Metro Manila. He said garbage from nearby towns like Cainta and those generated in Montalban could still be dumped there.

"We have agreements with other towns not affected by our contract with the MMDA," he said.

Rodriguez (formerly called Montalban) is asking the MMDA to raise to P800 the current P600 per ton tipping fee for using its controlled garbage facility.

Cuerpo said the agency also owes the town and the dump's private operator P183 million in unpaid fees.

Not getting any response from the MMDA, the mayor decided to stop accepting garbage from Metro Manila.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said garbage probably would have to be brought to the Navotas dump and the Payatas facility in Quezon City.

But the operation of the Navotas dump is facing stiff opposition from fishermen from adjacent Obando town in Bulacan.

For six months now fishermen, claiming that the operation of the dump was polluting the river where they fish, had been barricading the Binuangan River.

The river is being used by barges from a transfer station at the Manila North Harbor to bring garbage to the dump.

On Oct. 6, Judge Alexander P. Tamayo of Branch 15 of the Bulacan Regional Trial Court issued a 20-day restraining order against the fishermen, allowing several barges to reach the dump.

However, Tiangco expects the barricade to resume with the expiration of a restraining order yesterday.

The mayor is hoping the court would eventually order the permanent removal of the barricade.

Anyway, he said, the barricade was illegal.

Tiangco pointed out that the controlled disposal facility, which is managed and ran by Philippine Ecology Systems Corp., had a permit from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to operate until December 2005.

Tiangco said he had been asking the help of Obando officials to remove the barricade.

"But despite several communications with Mayor Zoilito Santiago… nothing happened," Tiangco said.

With the closure of the Rodriguez dump and the probable use of the Tanza facility, Tiangco is hopeful that the MMDA would compel Obando officials to act.

"Maybe the national government could come in and implement the law," Tiangco said.

Urban poor to bring Christmas to life

VOLUNTEER-HOUSEWIVES of Cristobal Street in Paco, Manila, glue colored paper and shiny sequins on empty mayonnaise bottles, which will be used to adorn a bridge on UN Avenue. REM ZAMORA

By Tina G. Santos

MOTORISTS PASSING THROUGH United Nations Avenue in Manila will soon be enchanted with a blazing display of light and color while crossing the Estero de Paco bridge.

Celebrating Christmas in a way that is uniquely Filipino, a group of urban poor folk is fashioning creative decorations that will be used to adorn the 15-meter long bridge.

The project, dubbed as "Bridge of Hope," aims to bring life to one of the oldest landmarks in the city. It is a joint effort of Unilever Philippines and its neighbor, Barangay Cristobal.

"We also intend to showcase the creativity of Filipinos and bring a message of hope and unity in the midst of these trying times," said Marissa Dames, the project's executive producer.

"There is no better time to do it than now. This is a challenge we pose to everyone—let us all be united in showing to the whole world that Christmas is still very much alive amidst all the hardships," she added.

About 30 housewives worked on empty egg-shaped bottles of mayonnaise and turned these into elegant jars of art.

Using colored cartolina, art paper, glitter and sequins, the women transformed the jars into funky containers with whimsical Christmas designs.

"The bottle lends a lot of room for creativity," Dames said, adding that the community hopes to produce several hundreds of decorated bottles to provide the bridge with adequate lighting.

A shower of stars

Apart from the decorated bottles, thousands of firefly lights are also expected to deck the bridge, creating a dazzling illusion of driving through a shower of stars.

Dames said the project tapped the community's *bayanihan* spirit.

"We encouraged the townsfolk to come and work together. The women were in charge of decorating the bottles, while the men will come in later to put up the structures," she said.

Tita Sikat, a barangay kagawad who was among those who joined the activity, said the project helped boost the morale of the residents.

"It gives us a feeling that there is still hope and that the spirit of Christmas is very much alive. We're poor, but in our little way we still definitely would like to celebrate the holidays," she said in Filipino.

Juanita Nacuspad, 41, said the project helped her discover her artistic skills.

"*Kaya ko pala. Akala ko di ako marunong. Dagdag kaalaman din ito sa akin*," she said.

Most of the housewives, however, expressed hope that the organizers would consider turning the project into a livelihood activity.

The "craft," some of them added, could also be a fun family activity with children as participants.

"The most important thing is you have fun. As log as you have fun, you can't go wrong," Sheryl Pollo, 34, said.

Metro crime down, says NCRPO report

By Jocelyn R. Uy

DESPITE THE HARD TIMES, THE National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) said yesterday that the crime rate in Metro Manila went down 13.9 percent from July 2004 to June this year.

In that 11-month period, crime volume in the metropolis dipped to 17,152 reported incidents from the previous year's 19,923, said a report from NCRPO chief Director Vidal Querol during the recently concluded General Annual Inspection-Operational Readiness Security Inspection Test and Evaluation at Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig City.

Of the total reported incidents, Querol said the NCRPO solved 16,078 cases for a 93.74 percent crime solution efficiency.

Moreover, Querol reported that several crime groups were neutralized from September 2004 to April 2005. These included the Jaso-Jaso Waray-Waray group, Ayop robbery group, Digoy Gang and Mikmik Bahala Na Gang, also known as the Estribo Gang.

During the same period, eight kidnapping cases were solved and 13 kidnappers were arrested, including former National Bureau of Investigation agent Martin Soriano, said the Regional Police Community Relations Division.

Beware of 'NBI agents' inspecting your PCs

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INvestigation (NBI) has warned the public against a group of people posing as bureau agents who raid private homes for unlicensed software.

"We have received reports that since the Anti-Piracy Team ended its grace period for users to buy authorized computer programs before they start conducting operations against those engaged in the illegal selling and distribution of software, unscrupulous individuals had been taking advantage of our intensified campaign against illegal software," NBI-Intellectual Property Rights Division chief Jose Justo Yap said.

In circulating e-mail, victims of the new modus operandi said a group of men would introduce themselves as NBI agents and ask homeowners or house help if they knew about the bureau's antipiracy campaign. The "NBI agents" then demand to be allowed inside the house so they could "inspect" the victim's personal computers.

Meanwhile, the Pilipinas Anti-Piracy Team, a software piracy task force composed of the Optical Media Board (OMB), the Philippine National Police and the NBI announced yesterday that it confiscated some P19.3 million worth of pirated software and disc replicating machines since operations began last month.

The OMB has also started to deputize regional and city-based antipiracy teams to boost its nationwide campaign. *With Tarra V. Quismundo*

METROBRIEFS

Not a safe refuge

THE SOUTH Cemetery in Makati City had been his home for years until police came to pick up Edwin Caigoy, Pasay City's 4th most wanted person, on Tuesday. Caigoy was accused of killing a neighbor more than five years ago. An informant directed police to the suspect's refuge at the cemetery where he had been a caretaker for four years. ***Jocelyn R. Uy***

Open for business

BARELY nine days after closing it down for violating antipollution regulations, Pasig City Mayor Vicente Eusebio allowed a Universal Robina Corporation coffee plant to resume operations. Eusebio gave the plant 15 days to reopen temporarily pending its compliance with antipollution standards. ***Edson C. Tandoc Jr.***

Healing confab

THE PHILIPPINE College for the Advancement of Medicine will host the 4th National Conference on Alternative and Natural Medicine from Nov. 13-16 at the Subic International Hotel, Olongapo City. Those who wish to exhibit natural health products may contact tel. nos. 373-2141, 411-8450 and 371-9855.

Another drug 'planting' case

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

EVERY DAY, SCORES OF innocent citizens get framed on drug charges by policemen despite a new law that metes out the death sentence to cops who "plant" drugs.

For the nth time, my "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo" office received Tuesday a complaint that a member of a special antidrug task force "planted" methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu) on two young men.

I sent Alin Ferrer, my "Isumbong" reporter, to the special antidrug task force in Bicutan, Taguig, to check the report and interview the alleged victims of the frame-up, Michael Navor, 24, and Rogelio Nabos, 24, both construction workers.

Alin and her cameraman, Roy Tranquilino, ended up being detained for allegedly interfering in a police function. They were only released after I called up Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes and National Police chief Arturo Lomibao.

Here's what Alin found out:

Michael and Rogelio had a fight with Edcel Caguit, son of SPO1 Edgar Caguit, over a petty matter.

In short, it was an "*away-bata*" (children's quarrel) although Michael, Rogelio and Edcel are no longer children.

Rogelio and Michael's fault was to tell Edcel they were not scared of his father. "*Walang pulis-pulis sa amin*," they allegedly said.

Edcel ran to his father. Father and son, both armed to the teeth, confronted the two. They took them to the barangay hall of Barangay Paliparan, Dasmarinas, Cavite.

SPO1 Caguit asked the barangay chief if he could bring the two to his headquarters in Manila and have them undergo a drug test. The barangay captain, who didn't know the law, allowed the cop to get hold of Michael and Rogelio.

There was nothing in the barangay blotter about drugs being found on Michael and Rogelio who were both wearing basketball shorts.

But, alas and alack! When the two were turned over to the Regional Anti-Illegal Drug Special Operations Task Force (that's the official name of the agency), things turned upside down for Michael and Rogelio.

SPO1 Caguit charged them with drug pushing and presented sachets of shabu that he said were found on their persons.

Supt. Jerry Valeroso, Caguit's chief, backed up his subordinate, saying Michael and Rogelio's arrest and detention were legal.

Valeroso also ordered Isumbong's Alin Ferrer and Roy Tranquilino detained for inquiring after Michael and Rogelio.

I checked with Camp Crame's personnel records about Valeroso, whose name rang a bell. This guy was dismissed from the police service on Oct. 21, 1997 for car theft, extortion and illegal possession of firearms.

My Camp Crame sources said Valeroso was allegedly able to get back in after the influential Iglesia ni Cristo, to which religious sect he belongs, pulled some strings with police bigwigs.

Was it any wonder then that Valeroso would come to the rescue of Caguit and have my nosy staffers arrested?

While Alin and Roy were being detained by Superintendent Valeroso, I called Director Vidal Querol, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), Valeroso's big boss, to seek his help.

Querol said he would back Valeroso because he was "an honest officer," having turned down a P300,000 bribe offer of an arrested drug pusher.

Awright!

You still wonder why the PNP basket is full of bad eggs?

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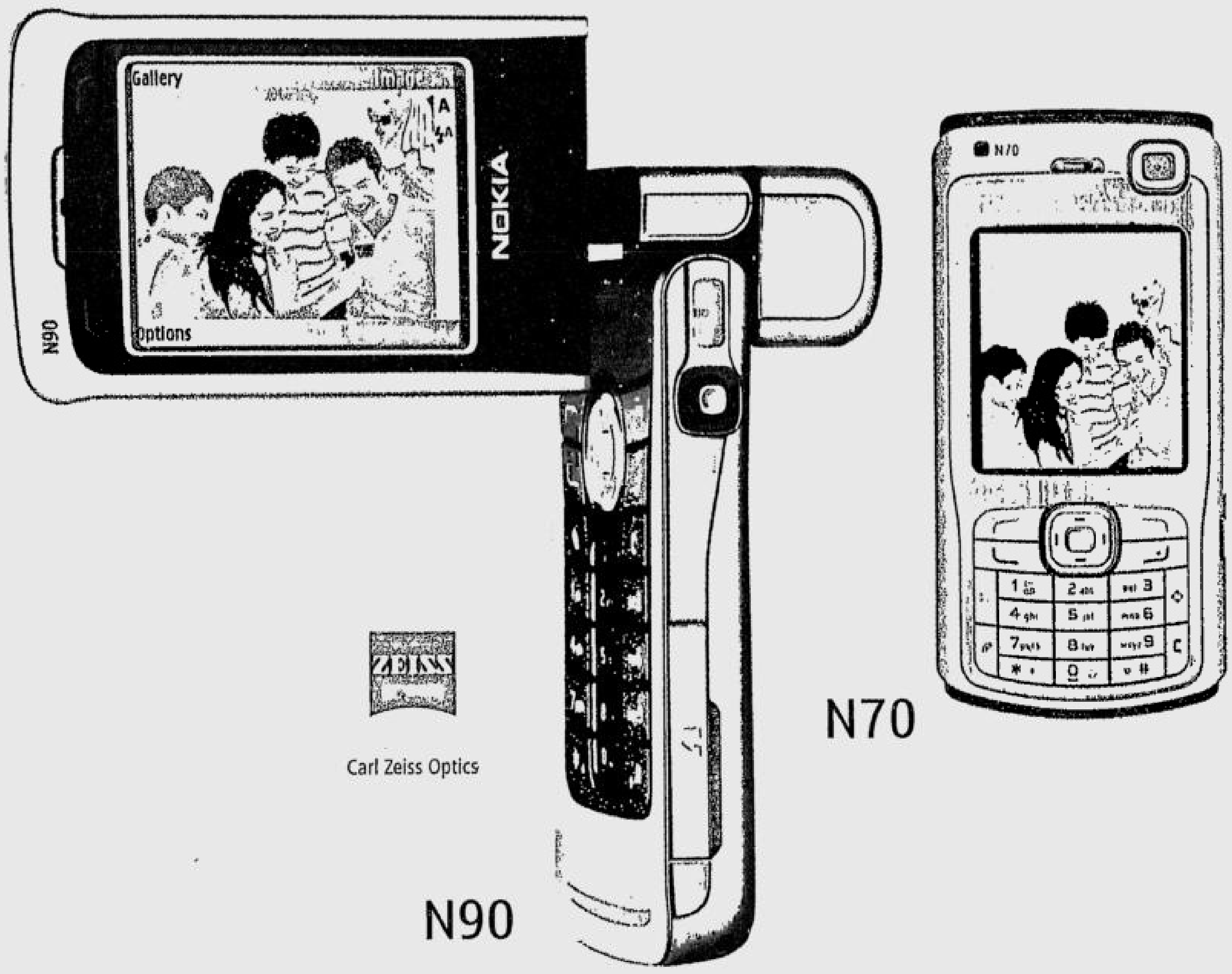

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Taguig: South Metro's new Divisoria?

By Jocelyn R. Uy

TAGUIG CITY COULD OFFER STIFF COMPEtition to Manila's famed Divisoria market.

The local government has reserved a space in the city's public market for harvests from the provinces for sale to consumers at cheaper prices, much like the popular destination for shoppers in Manila's Tondo and Binondo districts.

The move is part of the local government's project "Food Security and Poverty Alleviation Program" aimed at providing consumers in Taguig and neighboring towns with high quality products at low prices.

A joint project of the city's Cooperative Department Office (CDO) and local government units (LGUs) from Nueva Vizcaya, Quezon and North Cotabato, the program would also enhance the marketability of livestock and agricultural crops produced by farmers from the provinces.

"We feel this is a win-win situation for everyone involved. Farmers would have a ready market for their goods at a set price, while our constituents would be assured of the lowest possible prices," Mayor Freddie Tinga said in a statement.

Taguig public information officer Ana Santos told the INQUIRER that farmers would benefit from this reap from this venture as they would be able to reach more consumers at the least cost.

Partner LGUs will deliver their products to the public market in Barangay Lower Bicutan while the city government, in coordination with nongovernment cooperatives, will distribute these products to other public markets in the city. The project would also eliminate the role of middle players who frequently exploit the prices of farm commodities, according to Freddie Espital, Taguig CDO head.

Consumers now are highly dependent on the traditional markets in Divisoria, Manila and Balintawak, Quezon City, for low priced produce, he noted.

FERNANDEZ

The scene was for real, not reel

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr. and Bayani San Diego Jr.

ACTION STAR RUDY FERNANDEZ ALLEGEDly punched him and even poked a .45-caliber handgun to his head. But complainant Robert Tarroza, 34, was not talking about a movie scene.

Tarroza, a consultant of the Viva Entertainment Group, alleged that Fernandez attacked him inside his office the other night. "He punched me several times. Then he poked his gun at me. He also pistol-whipped me, hitting my nape and head," Tarroza said in a complaint filed yesterday in the Eastern Police District Annex Investigation in Pasig City.

Tarroza allegedly incurred Fernandez' wrath after he and his former wife, actress Alma Moreno, their children and several others, were deported from Japan last Friday.

Tarroza said he was talking to talent manager Zenaida Reyes at the Viva Entertainment Office on Tektite Tower, Ortigas, on Tuesday when Fernandez arrived with two men. The actor asked him if he was "Robby" and if he knew Fernandez. When he said yes, Tarroza said the actor began hitting him.

Fernandez later drew a gun and aimed it at Tarroza's head. "*Gusto mo bang mamatay*? (Do you want to die?)," the actor allegedly told the Viva consultant who claimed that Fernandez also hit him on the head with his gun. Security guards arrived later and pacified the actor.

Talent manager Lolit Solis, speaking in behalf of the actor, told INQUIRER that Fernandez had been "sleepless and had nightmares" since the deportation incident. "He has been depressed," Solis said. "They were detained in a dingy room from 7 a.m. to 4 a.m. But more than the embarrassment, he was upset because of the alleged inhumane treatment Alma's two children, nine-year-old Vittorio Joey and four-year-old MM, got in Japan. They were reportedly not given food throughout their detention."

Solis confirmed they had a meeting with Tarroza and other Viva executives at the company's office on the day of the incident. In that meeting, Tarroza was reportedly asked by the group about a letter he had reportedly faxed to the Japanese Embassy that got the actor and company in trouble in Tokyo.

Viva said it was not taking sides on the issue. "We just want to set the record straight," said Viva legal counsel Gina Lopez. "The company has never caused the deportation of any of its artists. Tarroza acted on his own."

SPORTS

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Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

SPORTS TV
Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASEBALL: 2005 MLB World Series – White Sox vs Astros, Game 4; 8 a.m. (r-4:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.); ESPN – The Fall Classic continues in Houston.

BILLIARDS: US 9-Ball Open; 9 p.m.; Solar Sports.

DLSU probe tags Salgado, Lacson

By Jasmine W. Payo

CONTRARY TO EXPECTATIONS, THE ELIgibility scandal that rocked De La Salle in the UAAP is far from over.

Even as La Salle implicated liaison officer Raul "Awoo" Lacson and assistant team manager Manny Salgado as the team officials who helped secure the fake eligibility documents of two Green Archers, La Salle president Bro. Armin Luistro, FSC, said these findings are just the "initial part of the investigation" and the four-man committee tasked to handle the case will continue its probe.

The university also officially named the two players as center Mark Lester Benitez and point guard Timoteo Gatchalian III, who both suited up in the Archers' 2004 UAAP championship run.

"The information released were the only ones verifiable," said Luistro during a press conference held at the Hyatt Hotel yesterday. "There are many other allegations being floated, but from this initial hearing, this is as far as the school can reveal at this time without breaking the bounds of justice."

"This isn't to say that we're done," added executive vice president Dr. Carmelita Quebengco. "There is so much to do including continued talks with the persons named in the investigation. The succeeding action will depend on the outcome of our talks with them."

According to the report of the four-man fact-finding committee, Benitez and Gatchalian both said Lacson secured their Philippine Educational Placement Test Certificate of Rating (PEPTCR) from the Department of Education.

Lacson allegedly told Benitez "that someone would take the test for him," while Gatchalian also identified the contractual statistician as "having given the spurious PEPTCR documents."

The report, which will be submitted to the UAAP board, also identified Salgado as "possibly the other person with prior knowledge" of the fake documents.

"They mentioned that (Salgado) made a call to Mark Benitez, saying that the PEP certificate is ready," said Quebengco of the controversial team official, who was banned for life in the UAAP after assaulting Far Eastern U star Arwind Santos following the Tams' Game 1 win over the Archers in the recent 2005 Finals series.

The report noted, however, that both Lacson and Salgado stated "they had no personal knowledge or did not know about the questioned document."

"These people (Lacson and Salgado) are contractuals," said Quebengco. "We are confident that no full-time La Salle employee is involved."

The report also said "no other La Salle official was tagged by all those interviewed."

The PEPTCR is an exam taken in lieu of a high school diploma to be eligible for college.

Benitez and Gatchalian had been properly sanctioned according to Quebengco.

"The moment we got the certification from DepEd that they submitted fake documents... we told them that they would not get any credits from any course taken or passed in the university," she said. "That in itself is the sanction."

Luistro added that La Salle recognizes that the two players "may have some responsibility over these incidents" but the university understands their "vulnerability given their age and sincere desire" to be part of the basketball team.

The two La Salle officials added that they're willing to assist both cagers in completing their high school studies.

Luistro also tempered calls of a revamp in the entire basketball program.

"We're trying to be careful of what we have to change precisely because we don't want to go the other extreme of being reactionary," he said. "To come up with a whole new sports development program at this stage may not be wise.

"Certainly there will be some overhaul but I do not want to say what it would be at this stage because I think we needed some time and to be prudent in terms of which direction we should go."

The school officials also stressed that there was no "deliberate attempt to withhold information."

Although La Salle received a verification letter from DepEd on Aug. 18, the start of the UAAP second round, Quebengco said "it was deemed necessary to re-verify the matter from DepEd in order to exclude any possible error of ineligibility."

La Salle alumnus Cerviliano dela Cruz, however, stole the show during the press conference when he surprisingly lambasted the university officials "as the biggest hypocrite La Salle has ever produced."

"How could they fail the government exam and pass the La Salle exam?" asked Dela Cruz, adding that all La Salle alumni have "become the butt of jokes" as a result of the controversy.

Luistro assured the 70-year-old alumnus, who crashed the press conference, that the incident doesn't imply that La Salle has "lowered its standards" and the scandal "won't happen again."

Quebengco reasoned that "different programs have different requirements" and both players "met the requirements of the AB Sports Management course."

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Mikee RP flag-bearer

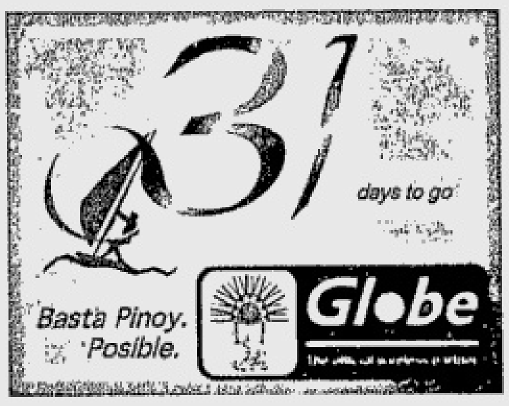
EQUESTRIENNE MIKEE COJUANGCO-JAworski, who decided to come out of retirement several days ago, was named as the Philippines' flag-bearer during the opening of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

The Philippine Olympic Committee's executive committee also chose Athens Olympic taekwondo bet Mary Antoinette Rivero to light the SEAG flame during the opening, which is expected to draw a crowd of no less than 250,000 at the Luneta on Nov. 27.

* * *

ALL equipment to be used for the Games have arrived and need only the clearance from customs before they are released to the National Sports Associations concerned.

The last to be shipped are the polyurethane granules and electronics devices to be used for the Rizal Memorial track and field oval and the boats for canoe/kayak. *Musong R. Castillo*



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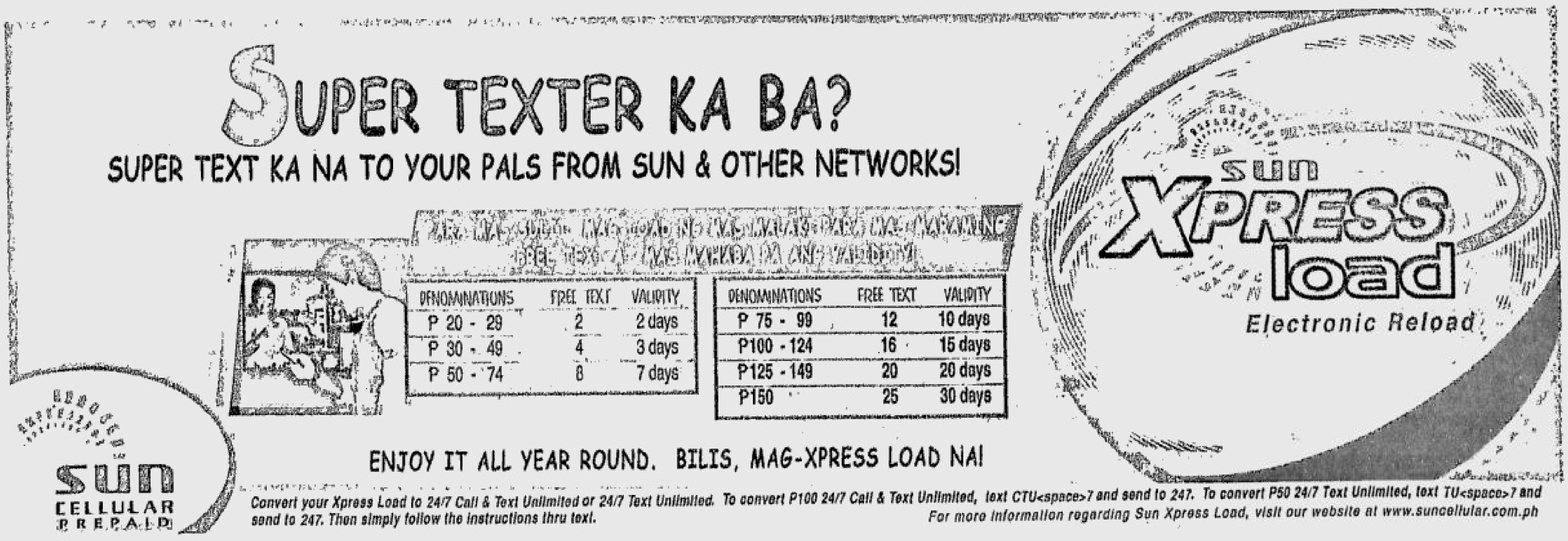
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Ozamiz snares NBC nat'l title

OZAMIZ CITY—MAYOR REYNALDO Parojinog's Ozamiz Cotta Shrine cagers got huge double-double numbers from Billy Bansil and ex-pro Christian Nicdao to beat Far Eastern Insurance-backed Cavite, 78-73, Tuesday and capture the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball title before an overflow crowd at the Gov. Angel Medina Sr. gym.

Bansil topscored with 20 on top of 14 rebounds and Nicdao, who was eventually named tournament MVP, recorded 17 points and 12 boards as Ozamiz led from start to finish to end their two-game losing woes to Cavite at homecourt.

Ozamiz had previously lost to Cavite twice at home during the tourney supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Sunbolt Sports Drink, Accel, Molten, Nature's Spring, Far Eastern Insurance, Skygo, Sirlitz, Hapee Toothpaste, Dewfoam, KSK Food Products (Boy Bawang), Prime Channel, Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Cebu.

"It's sweet to win at home. We're emotionally overwhelmed with the victory and the Ozamiz people's support," said coach Albert Calvo.

The Insurers of Bacoor Vice Mayor Edwin Malvar and strong supporter Gov. Ireneo "Ayong" Maliksi converted only four of 27 3-point shots, with main man Marvin Ortiguerra finishing with only 11 points and five rebounds.

NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla failed to make the awarding ceremony due to business commitments but his secretary general, Tito Plama, expressed satisfaction at the league's successful run in its second season.

Nicdao was joined in the Mythical Five by Ortiguerra, Tribu Sugbu's Ronald Bucao, Valencia's Nat Cruz and Iligan's Marco Fajardo.

Other awardees were Valencia's Eliazar Berami, Rookie of the Year, Tribu's Doroteo Almacin, most improved player; and Valencia mentor Arvin Martinez, coach of the year.

The scores:

OZAMIZ 78—Bansil 20, Nicdao 17, Ilanga 13, Alberto 11, Cabigkis 7, Sampilo 7, Delina 3, Llangco 0, Alvarado 0, Aquino 0.

CAVITE 73—Diaz 13, Rodriguez 12, Ortiguerra 11, Estrada 9, Bonus 9, Sierra 8, Coronel 5, Booker 5, Mamaclay 0, Baluyot 0.

Quarters: 22-14, 53-41, 66-57, 78-73.

NBC secretary general Tito Palma presents the trophy to Ozamiz City Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog. With them are city administrator Mike Ochate, coach Albert Calvo, players and supporters.

FOOTBALL FESTIVAL: Marist School and Xavier School teams tangle in the Red Ribbon-PFF-Rifa Football Festival recently at the Colegio San Agustin grounds in Dasmariñas Village, Makati City.

Giants rip Tigers

By June Navarro

JONDAN Salvador continued to stand tall as a Purefoods Chunkee Giant.

This year's fourth overall draft pick shot a career-high 21 points and grabbed nine rebounds last night, sparking the Giants to a 103-87 win over the Coca-Cola Tigers in the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

Salvador, who had an almost impeccable 10 of 12 shooting, also held Ali Peek, Coca-Cola's chief gunner, scoreless, in the final half.

"Scoring points was just a bonus," said Salvador, a former PBL MVP while playing for Montana Jewels in the amateurs. "Containing Ali (Peek) was my real target and I'm relieved to get the work done."

Marquin Chandler won his matchup against Coke's Omar Thomas, scoring 27 points and grabbing 15 rebounds while Kerby Raymundo's 26 markers was a point shy of his personal-high. Raymundo also dished off six assists on top of four rebounds and two blocks.

But they were all outshone by Salvador, who drew glowing praise from coach Ryan Gregorio.

"It's not hard to pick him at No. 4 (in the draft) because I feel he could deliver the goods," said Gregorio of his 6-foot-4 power forward.

With their fifth victory in six games, the Giants have now duplicated their 5-1 start in the 2002 Governors Cup.

Thomas came up with 28 points, 14 rebounds, three assists and three steals for the Tigers, who fell to 1-4.

Barangay Ginebra celebrated the return of Eric Menk with a 100-94 victory over Talk 'N Text in the second game.

Menk, playing his first game after a six-month absence, fired 17 points and grabbed eight rebounds as the Kings improved to 3-3. The Phone Pals tasted their first loss in five games.

The scores:

First Game

PUREFOODS 103—Chandler 27, Raymundo 26, Salvador 21, Yap J. 16, Yap R 8, Billones 4, Simon 1, Artadi 0, Pingris 0, Yee 0, Castillo 0.

COCA-COLA 87—Thomas 28, Mamaril 18, Peek 12, Arigo 8, Miranda 7, Antonio 7, Abarrientos 4, Morano 3, Raneses 0, Wainwright 0, Juinio 0.

Quarters: 31-27, 50-47, 79-71, 103-87

Muntinlupa leads MYG invt'l

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MUNTINLUPA ASSERTED ITS SUPremacy in football by picking up two more golds to take the early overall lead in the first Manila Youth Games national invitational yesterday.

The booters from southern Metro Manila added the boys' 12-under and girls' 12-under championships to the boys' 17-under and girls' 15-under titles they secured yesterday to pace the field with four golds.

Parañaque and Laguna Province won the other two titles disputed in football even as Quezon City barged into the winner's circle with a victory in girls' softball.

Parañaque banked on the splendid performance of MVP Christine del Carmen to defeat Muntinlupa, 5-3, in the girls' 17-under title match. Laguna Province struck through a 3-0 win over Bohol in the boys' 15-under.

Powered by the core of the UP varsity team, the QC sluggers won the best-of-three playoffs for the softball crown, 2 games to 1, following a 5-2 win over the Adamson-backed Manila clouters in their rubber match.

QC won Game 1 (1-0) of the title series before Manila fought back with a 2-1 triumph through the heroics of pitcher Cloeine Muyco.

Host Manila is expected to make noise starting today when track and field starts at the UST football field.

The Games, organized by the Manila Sports Council, also features competitions in baseball, swimming and taekwondo.

Tanauan City continued its winning ways in the 12-under Little League baseball, whipping Bohol, 14-0, to forge a title showdown against Muntinlupa today.

Magnolia vs Granny Saturday

A PAIR OF EXPLOSIVE MATCHES will highlight the inaugurals of the 2006 PBL Heroes Cup on Saturday as two of the league's giants—Magnolia Dairy Ice Cream and Rain or Shine (formerly Welcoat Paints)—battle separate rivals raring to join the circle of champions.

The Wizards, backstopped by back-to-back UAAP MVP Arwind Santos and Fil-Am Kelly Williams, collide with Granny Goose Tortillos in the opener at 2 p.m., while the Elasto Painters clash with the Toyota Otis Knights at 4 p.m.

Opening ceremonies start at 1 p.m. with Olympian archer Jasmine Figueroa invited as special guest.

Sexy actress Jen Rosendahl and Mel Feliciano's Solid Gold will provide dance numbers to spice up the affair which will be shown live over Studio 23.

"Everything is set for the opening of the Heroes Cup and just like in the past stagings of the tournament, we expect another fierce but exciting battle for the championship," said commissioner Chino Trinidad, who is also excited with the return of Hapee-Philippine Christian University to the league, now on its 24th season.

The Lamoiyan-franchise is built around the core of the PCU Dolphins of the NCAA.

Pagunsan, RP A up in Hong Kong

HONG KONG—JUVIC PAGUNSAN sizzled with an eight-under-par 63 to pace the individual competition while powering RP Team A to the lead at the start of the Hong Kong Amateur Open golf championships at the Hong Kong Golf Club's Old course here yesterday.

Pagunsan flashed the form that netted him five victories this year to spark the Filipinos' bid for a sweep of the individual and team titles in this four-day event serving as their final tuneup for next month's Southeast Asian Games in Manila.

Tonton Asistio, who with Pagunsan and Michael Bibat make up RP Team A in this three-to-play, two-to-count format event, fired a 65 as the Philippines pooled a 14-under 128 for a six-stroke lead over Singapore, which shot an eight-under 134.

The Filipinos showed solid form that Bibat's 68 failed to count for the squad.

Jay Bayron, who powered the Philippines to the team championship last year, shot a three-under 68 but it was The Spirit Cup veteran Marvin Dumandan who led RP Team B's charge with a four-under 67 for 135 and third place.

Parrenas, Tipon earn crack at gold

TAMPERE, FINLAND—FILIPINOS' Warlito Parrenas and Joan Tipon clobbered their American foes to gain the finals of the 26th Tammer International Cup here.

Parrenas won by RSC-O (Referee Stops Contest-Outclassed), 30-10, with 1:01 to go in the third round while Tipon won on points against Shemuel Pagan, 20-10.

Parrenas meets Irish Conor Ahern while Tipon faces versatile Mohamad Ibrahim of Jordan for the gold in the 19-nation tournament.

'Bownie'

Spectator

Al S. Mendoza

ONE DOESN'T HAVE TO BE PEDIGREED TO win a contest among pets.

That's the lesson learned when "Bownie" defeated some 50 pedigreed dogs and cats at the "Scaredy Cats & Dogs" tournament on Oct. 23 at the Eastwood Central Plaza in Pasig City.

"Bownie" was the only *askal* (*asong kalye*) a.k.a. stray dog entered in the contest.

Billed as a Halloween event for the benefit of the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) headed by the super-energetic Nita "Tata" Hontiveros-Lichauco, the afternoon show featured cats and dogs garbed in wacky, if not scary, attires, delighting a huge Sunday crowd composed mostly of entire families.

You talk of spending a wholesome weekend with the kids, this is it. All around you are the friendliest cats and dogs you'll ever see.

I will never forget the scene.

Pet and person co-existing harmoniously, at times carousing in wild abandon under an atmosphere of animal diplomacy. You see feline and k-nine getting special attention, VIP treatment if you wish, from humanity.

There's romping all over, as though each one has known each other for years. One afraid of dog bite, this is for you. Dogs here never bite.

They glance at you.

They smell you.

"Bownie" was the "Crypt Keeper's Choice" for the "Most Original Pet Costume."

"Bownie" was originally named "Brownie" but because of Mayo Royeca Mendoza, "Brownie" became "Bownie." But that's getting ahead of the story.

About five years ago, Malaya M. Sadiwa found a dog in the neighborhood. It was limping, walking sideways. Its right eye was bleeding. Clearly, the dog had been run over. Its front left leg was injured. It could only see with one good eye. It was in pain.

Despite its terrible condition, the dog would insist on hanging around in front of the house. But Malaya couldn't get near it. The dog would always scamper/struggle away—sideways, of course—each time Malaya tried to come closer.

But Malaya did not give up.

At first, she offered water. The dog drank it.

Next, she offered food. The dog ate it.

In two days, Malaya and the dog became friends.

As soon as they got acquainted, Malaya wasted no time bringing the dog to a veterinarian. After medication, Malaya painstakingly nursed the dog back to life.

After "Bownie" had been impounded twice by the cruel elements of the city pound, Malaya, together with Ricky, would soon have a house built for "Bownie."

It wasn't hard for Malaya to coin a name for her *askal*. Because it was colored brown, Malaya named the dog "Brownie." But the 8-year-old Mayo called the dog "Bownie"—for obvious reasons. The letter "R" has always been a bane for tots aged 4-and-under. Mayo was 3 when "Bownie" came along.

"Bownie" maybe blind in one eye and has this ubiquitous limp, but I tell you it sits down when you say "sit" and extends its front left foot when you say "shake hands."

And sporting the costume, "The Three-Headed Dog" on Oct. 29 at Eastwood, courtesy of Ricky Sadiwa's creativity, "Bownie" romped away with the top prize in his category of "Most Original Pet Costume."

Askal or no *askal*, one can win if one wants to win.

In the same vein, Fiba or no Fiba, basketball will be in the SEA Games if we want it done.

Anything in this world is just a matter of will power.

* * *

FASTBREAK. There are a few seats left for the Gary Lewis & The Playboys concert at the Araneta Coliseum tomorrow, Friday, Oct. 28. Go, grab one. As Luke Pasiliao of Solar Sports & Entertainment said, "If you enjoyed every minute of the Cascades and the Beach Boys shows, the Playboys might yet put you on the edge of your seat all evening." I'm sure Dennis Uy, that computer genius from Angeles City, is itching to watch this one, too.

SPORTSWATCH

Hot Freaky Nights on All Saints' Day

DRAG RACING GETS A NEW TWIST WHEN THE HOT FREAKY NIGHTS ERUPT from Oct. 28 to 30 at the PRA Promenade, Macapagal Blvd. in Pasay City. Car and big bike races, shows and expos, plus concerts featuring the country's hottest bands and performers will highlight the event, which is organized by Greenlight Productions, headed by CEO Bryan Revilla and president Izmael Icasas. The event will start with the ribbon-cutting ceremony at 3 p.m. opening the car show on Oct. 28. At 5 p.m., drag racing ensues before the big bike races get its turn an hour later. Sponsored by Red Horse Beer, Dickies, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Rubert James, Pressman, Acoustic Vertus, a-Toy Body Kits, Xenon Bulbs, Concept One, Bilstein H and R and Sony Expload, Hot Freaky Nights will not just feature the "fast and the furious," but will also showcase trendy, colorful racing cars that could perk up the distinctive taste and preferences of car-racing enthusiasts. In the course of the event, spectators and participants will likewise be bewitched by the Halloween Costume Party on All Saints' Day.

SEAG DRINK: Milo sports executive Pat Goc-ong (left) presents commemorative Milo cans to Philippine SEA Games Organizing Committee chair Jose Cojuangco recently. Milo is the official energy drink of the 23rd SEA Games.

2nd Annual Stag meet today

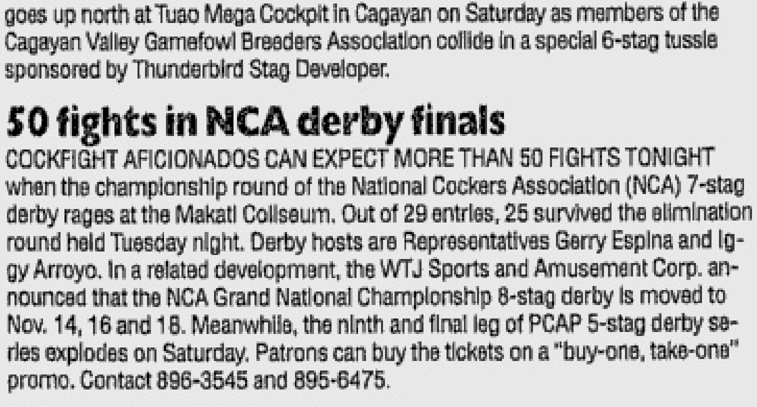
THE 2ND ANNUAL STAG DERBY FEATURING TWO 3-STAG COMPETITIONS WILL start today at the San Mateo Cockpit, Rizal. The two-day event, staged by the United Backyard Breeders Association and backed by Thunderbird Enertone, will parade new and upcoming gamefowl breeders and fanciers. Entry fee and minimum bet are pegged at P3,300. Another 6-stag event will be held today at the Mactan Tourist & Sports Center in Lapu-Lapu City with a P1 million guaranteed cash prize. Action goes up north at Tuao Mega Cockpit in Cagayan on Saturday as members of the Cagayan Valley Gamefowl Breeders Association collide in a special 6-stag tussle sponsored by Thunderbird Stag Developer.

50 fights in NCA derby finals

COCKFIGHT AFICIONADOS CAN EXPECT MORE THAN 50 FIGHTS TONIGHT when the championship round of the National Cockers Association (NCA) 7-stag derby rages at the Makati Coliseum. Out of 29 entries, 25 survived the elimination round held Tuesday night. Derby hosts are Representatives Gerry Espina and Iggy Arroyo. In a related development, the WTJ Sports and Amusement Corp. announced that the NCA Grand National Championship 8-stag derby is moved to Nov. 14, 16 and 18. Meanwhile, the ninth and final leg of PCAP 5-stag derby series explodes on Saturday. Patrons can buy the tickets on a "buy-one, take-one" promo. Contact 896-3545 and 895-6475.

Cavite Int'l Derby gets support

THE 15TH EDITION OF THE CAVITE 7-COCK INTERNATIONAL DERBY, SLATED Nov. 29, Dec. 1 and 3, gets a big boost recently with the participation of prominent cockers abroad. The event, to be hosted by former Sen. Ramon Revilla, lawyer Rudy Salud, Lito Orillaza, Vice Mayor Nestor Mercado and William Co, will be staged at the Cavite Coliseum Derby Center and Casino. Heading the list of foreign participants are Rep. Benjamin Sabian of Saipan, Rene Azucena of Tenessee, Conrad Burgos of California, Riochi Saito of Japan, Li Ong of Malaysia in partnership with Primallion Brothers and Thomas Michauz of Germany. For reservation of cockhouses, call 0915 -5742399 or 0469704810 (look for Ferdie Bautista or Mandy). For an entry of P30,000, the guaranteed prize is P2 million.



CKP Consultancy Services emerged champion in the recent Gillette MBL Vector Cup Open. Standing from left, William Fong (playing team owner/manager), Jonas Gulao, Morty Fong, Tim Ezparaz, Jun Tanuan, Ryan Lapid, JR Naguit, Renato Echavez, Adonis Tierra (playing coach); seated from left, Martin Syjuco, William Ibay, Joel Parcotilo, Macy Fong, Chelsea Ng, Jeff de Guzman, Paolo Malonzo (MVP) and DJ Perlas.

TJGL tilt at Valley

THE FOURTH ANNUAL GOLF tournament of The Junior Golfers League (TJGL) will be held this Sunday, Oct. 30 at the executive course of the Valley Golf and Country Club in Antipolo.

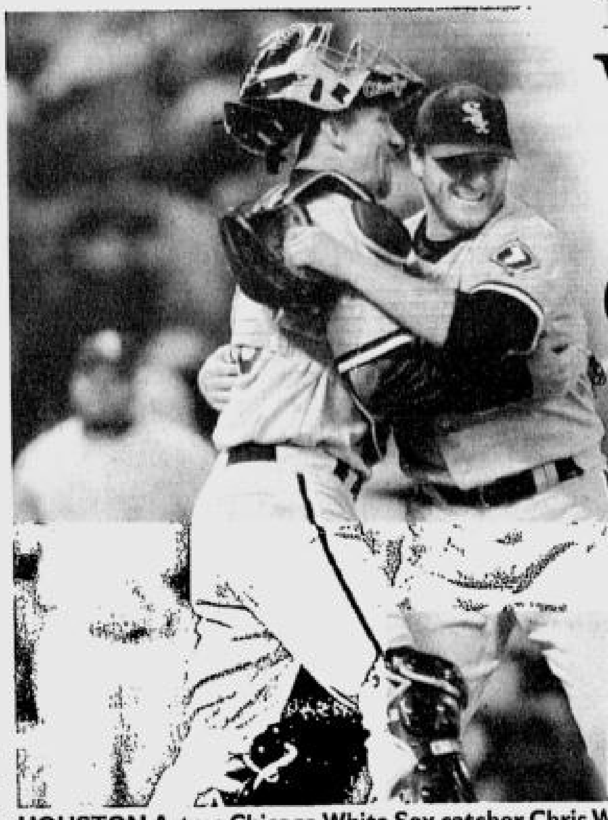
Jungolfers led by TJGL players who had excelled in local and international events will be competing in their age brackets while parents and guests will be seeing action in a separate division.

TJGL top guns Bambee dela Paz, Cyna Rodriguez, Marcel Puyat, Paulina Sotto, Andie Unson and Remo Fueg are entered with Crystal and Princess Superal, Miguel Tabuena, Bino dela Paz, Abegail and Tonton Arevalo, Janella Buen and Felicia Medalla.

Specially designed trophies by Tropiko and attractive raffle items are up for grabs. Major sponsors of TJGL are New Kanlaon Construction, Inc., Apo Puyat Steel, MX Technology, GMV, IST Sterling, Elitech, Elitech (Korea), MX CIT, Keteca and AEM-Evertech. Minor sponsors are Dyna-Jes Corp., Rohm & Hass, Tritronics, Crosslink, GemPhil Corp., Deviced Dynamic, Inc., Intercoastal Bosch, Amkor Tech (APM), Poongsan Technology, Softex Co., Ltd., Green Chem, Evapia Precision, CIGI, Toyo-Adtech, Testech Inc., Gilen Meyer, Assembleon, RS Components Phils., IMI, GRM Freight Forwarder, IRI, Aurotech System, Newport Corp., Maxtronics and Evapia Precision.

Giveaways and souvenirs are provided by AGC Transport Company, Inc., Petron, lawyer Gabby Villareal, Markus Fueg, Unilab Consumer Health, Mr. & Ms Ely Rodriguez, Gorumet, Mr. & Ms June Tumamao, Reynaldo Capinianes, Noel Villanueva and Toby's.

For inquiries, call 09176698705.



HOUSTON Astros Chicago White Sox catcher Chris Widger (L) and pitcher Mark Buehrle celebrate after defeating the Houston Astros 7-5 in Game 3 of Major League Baseball's 2005 World Series in Houston, Texas, Oct. 25, 2005. The White Sox lead the best-of-seven series three games to none. REUTERS/MIKE BLAKE

14-INNING THRILLER

White Sox near title on Blum home run

HOUSTON, TEXAS—GEOFF Blum blasted a two-out solo home run in the 14th inning as the Chicago White Sox beat the Houston Astros 6-5 on Tuesday in the longest game in World Series history.

Blum's 354-foot towering shot off Astros reliever Ezequiel Astacio sailed over the right-field fence to put the White Sox on the verge of winning their first World Series title in 88 years.

Chicago seized a 3-0 lead in Major League Baseball's best-of-seven championship final but the White Sox had to come from behind in the marathon game, which lasted five hours, 41 minutes.

The White Sox can wrap up the Fall Classic with a victory in game four here on Wednesday and complete a sweep of the Astros, competing in the first World Series in the 44-year history of their franchise.

The White Sox fell behind early on Tuesday, then rallied for a five-run fifth inning, got some clutch hitting in the eighth and survived a bases-loaded scare in the ninth.

Infielder Blum, who is the newest White Sox having been acquired at the July 31 trading deadline, made the most of his only at-bat of the contest.

The New York Mets and New York Yankees set the previous record length for a World Series game by time at four hours, 51 minutes in 2000.

The epic contest also equalled the longest World Series game by innings, matching the 14-inning game between Boston and Brooklyn in 1916.

Astros starer Roy Oswalt pitched six innings, giving up eight hits and five runs while walking five batters. Before the White Sox's five-run fifth, Oswalt had allowed just five runs in 25 post-season innings.

Jon Garland started for Chicago and left after seven innings, surrending seven hits and four runs. *AFP*

Big firms back Nasac Golf

NINE BIG FIRMS HAVE COMmitted to support the second Nasac Chair'S Golf Cup tournament on Nov. 4 at the Camp Aguinaldo course in Quezon City. These are TMS Shipping, Hapee/Lamoiyan, Home Development Mutual Fund/Pag-Ibig, North Luzon Tollways Corp., Oriental and Motolite Batteries, PCSO, Gasworth/C-Lium Fiber and Fedex/Air21. Proceeds from the 18-hole golfest will help fund the National Social Action Council's 10th Trisectoral Congress slated in February 2006. Nasac chair Popoy Juico said a big turnout of golfers is expected. Contact 400-9745 and 522-5953.

Ortillo clinches Eagle Ridge crown

JOEL ORTILLO CAME THROUGH with a net 10-under-par 62 to win the Class D crown in the recent members' monthly tournament of the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

Ortillo's tournament low gross at the Norman course won him the division title by 2 strokes over Patrick Idquival with Ramon Matias claiming third place after a 67.

Efren Cruz, Manuel Comia, Rodrigo Anabu, Arlette Dizon, Rurik Santos and Manuel Tayas were the other winners in the 18-hole event which marked the start of a series of club events sponsored by Callaway through its local distributors Planet Sports, Inc.

Over at the Faldo course, Cruz posted a 71 for a 1-stroke victory in Class A over Youn Hwan Ahn. Rolando Medina placed third with a 74. Anabu scraped past Willie Mediavillo by a mere stroke in Class C with his 65. Edgar Endrino claimed third spot at 67.

Santos and Tayas were the seniors division champions. Santos scored a 66 to beat Rosendo Cruz by two while Tayas likewise finished two ahead of the next man Rolando Dizon, 71-73.

At the Norman course, Comia took top honors in Class B, his 63 two better than the 65 of Tae Jeon Sung and four less than Park Kun Hee's 67.

Euro boxers to face Pinoy SEAG bets

By Dennis U. Eroa
Inquirer Libre sports editor

THE COUNTRY'S BOXING BETS TO THE 23rd Southeast Asian Games will be tested when they trade punches with European fighters using the Philippines as the final stop in their buildup for the 2005 world championship set Nov. 5-15 in China.

The visiting boxers, among them medalists in this year's Athens Olympics and last year's world championships, will display their wares in the three-day Touch Mobile Go-for-Gold program hosted by the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines starting on Nov. 5.

"This is a rare oppurtunity for our boxers to fight some of the world's best boxers. I am confident that our boxers will benefit greatly from competing against them," Abap president Manny T. Lopez, a senior member of the Technical and Rules committee of the International Amateur Boxing Association, told the INQUIRER.

Athens Olympics flyweight silver medalist Jerome Thomas of France leads the stellar cast of European boxers along with flyweight bronze medalist Rahimov Rustanhodza of Germany. Also arriving is super heavyweight Roberto Cammarelle, who won a bronze for Italy in Athens.

Top fighters from Italy and Ireland are also coming along with the national bets from Australia, Brazil and Sri Lanka.

Lopez said the Abap is still finalizing the roster of the Philippines in the three-day TM Go-for-Gold that will be held in Baguio City on Nov. 5, La Union City on Nov. 7 and La Trinidad, Benget on Nov. 9.

The Philippines is determined to bounce back from a disappointing one-gold, seven-silver performance in the 2003 SEAG in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Thailand won the overall crown with seven golds and is bringing in its world class boxers, including Athens Olympics gold medal winner light welterweight Manus Boonjunmong ang reigning World champ flyweight Somjit Jongjohor. Bacolod will host the SEAG boxing on Nov. 28-Dec. 3.

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NATIONAL Chessfest: Tagaytay City Mayor Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino and Grandmaster Eugene Torre make the ceremonial moves at the opening of the 2005 National Inter-Cities and Municipalities chess team championship last Monday at the Tagaytay Sports Center in Tagaytay City. Watching are National Chess Federation of the Philippines secretary general Sammy Estimo, Grandmasters Nelson Mariano II and Joey Antonio and project director Willie Abalos.

Alabang salvages draw

GRANDMASTER NELSON Mariano II beat International Master Richard Bitoon to rescue Alabang, Muntinlupa City, from the brink of defeat in the fifth round of the 2005 Inter-Cities and Municipalities Chess Team Championship at the Tagaytay Sports Center in Tagaytay City.

Mariano's heroics allowed the defending team champion to salvage a draw against Tanauan City, 2-2, and maintain solo leadership in the week-long tournament with 4.5 match points.

Parañaque City stunned Manila, 3-1, to share second spot with Tanauan City at 4.0.

National Master Rolando Nolte, Christopher Castellano and Julius Sinangote of Parañaque won their respective matches to put to waste the victory of Manila's NM Darwin Laylo against IM Ronald Bancod on the top board.

Tagaytay "A" and Tagaytay "B" also won their respective matches to share fourth spot with Cantilan at 3.5 and stay in the hunt for the P100,000 top prize.

FOOTBALL draw: Prime movers of the ongoing PFF-Adidas U-19 National Championship during the draw. Standing from left are Domeka Garamendi (PFF acting GenSec) and Pabs Araneta (tournament commissioner). Seating from left are Adidas' Goody Custodio, managing director John Alonte and PFF president Johnny Romuladez.

Dovelets start bid with win

ST. FRANCIS of Assisi-Bacoor came through with a masterful victory to jump start its campaign for a sixth straight high school title in the 6th Southern Luzon Colleges and Universities Athletic Association (SLCUAA) basketball competitions at the Colegio San Agustin-Biñan gym. The Dovelets began their quest for an unprecedented sixth straight championship with a 93-74 triumph over the juniors of Colegio San Agustin. "I always tell the boys that the first game of the season is as important as the championship because this way, you get to dictate the tempo of the rest of your campaign while announcing to the field that you mean business," said St. Francis athletic director Benjo Viola, also the SLCUAA president. Meanwhile, the Philippine Christian U Dolphins, who won last year's men's championship on their first try, opened their bid with a 84-65 shellacking of newcomer Lyceum Matrix in the premier men's division game.

CDO takes 4x4 crown

CDO OFF-Roaders captured top honors in the DuPont 4x4 Battle of Champions held recently in FronteraVerde, Pasig City. Toti Macmang, driving a modified Land Cruiser, clocked 13 minutes 23.16 to bag the title while teammate Albert Monte de Ramos timed 13:30.88 for second place in the event organized by Suzuki 4x4 Club of the Philippines. Zaldy Fernado of Delmonte 4 Wheelers posted 15:13.10 to land third. The event was supported by Highland Trading, Davies Paints, Asia United Bank, Asian Spirit, Red Bull, Super Bowl of China, A-toy Body Kits, Concept One Innovative Technology, Xenon-Bulbs, H&R and Premiere Ready-mix.

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2	MASAHISTA
3	A MAN A PART
4 (DTS)	DARKNESS

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2	LINGO LANG ANG PAHINGA
3 (DTS)	ISPIRITISTA
4	PARAISONG GUBAT
5	SOUND OF THUNDER

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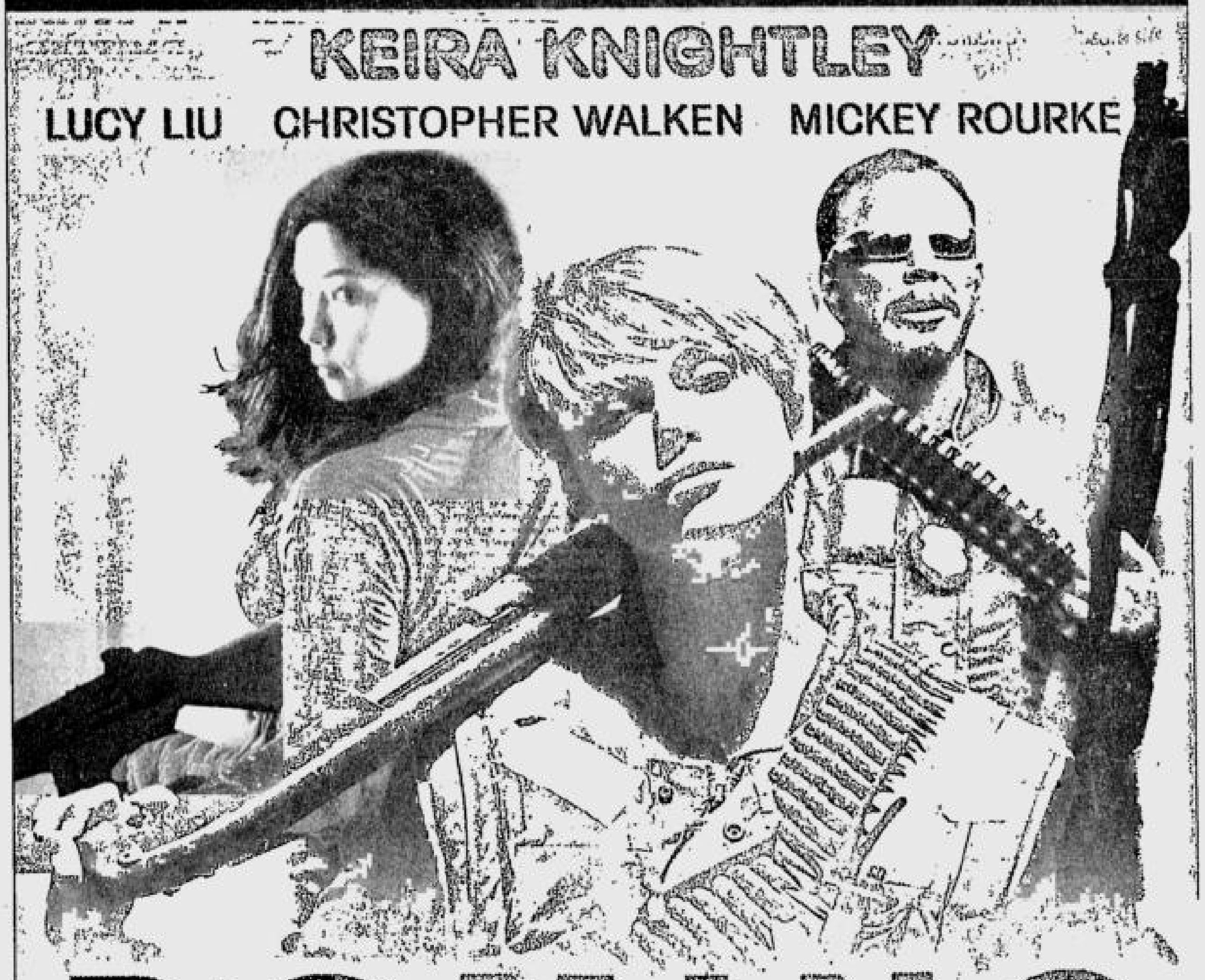

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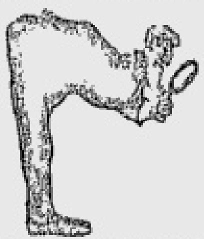

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Zorro: Life is a masquerade

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

UPON THE INVITATION OF MY LOVABLE colleague Ambet Nabus, I attended the celebrity premiere of "The Legend of Zorro" at the Gateway cineplex. It was a star-studded event. Some of the stars I spotted were lovebirds Alessandra de Rossi and Jeremy Marquez, Joey Marquez and his current squeeze Alicia Mayer, Paolo Bediones and his mestiza dentist girlfriend (heard that it's love the second time around for both of them) and Alvin Patrimonio (my fave *kumpare*!). He told me that his wife Cindy and kids are in New York and they will soon fly to Spain for their kids' tennis scholarship course.

"The Legend of Zorro" is set several years after the previous adventure, "The Mask of Zorro." Alejandro (Antonio Banderas) and Elena (Catherine Zeta-Jones) are married and have a 10-year-old son, Joaquin (Adrian Alonso). Although Alejandro continues to don the mask of Zorro to protect the oppressed residents of California from the greed of overlords, he dreams of a more normal life.

AUTHOR with 'kumpare' Alvin Patrimonio

Fast-paced

The sequel is a family act. Zorro battles the dark forces side by side with his wife and son. The family "three" are thrust into a succession of fights, rescues, skullduggery and chases, the movie runs over two hours. But Banderas' smoldering appeal, Zeta Jones' drop-dead beauty and the fast-paced action scenes will make you forget that the film is running long. The couple's "Can't live with you/Can't live without you" kind of romance ignites the screen. They fight with each other and for each other.

Alonso is such a delightful child actor. In some scenes, he unwittingly upstages the veteran actors. He is not acting; he is just being himself.

In the movie, Alejandro/Zorro and Elena decide to separate and what unfolds is a fortuitous adventure.

Comic relief

"Love stories are always best when the status quo is upended," says movie director Martin Campbell, "when lovers have to overcome numerous obstacles in order to be united, or in this case, reunited. And that's precisely what happens here."

Zeta-Jones attests, "None of us wanted to embark on a new adventure if we didn't think it would have the same magic as the first film. When we saw that the script had captured that, well, we knew it was a slam-dunk!"

Zorro's black horse Tornado provides comic relief. Can you imagine a horse who smokes and downs booze? The horse is so cartoon-like, I waited for him to talk a la Scooby Doo.

Zorro's charm lies in his being human. Unlike most screen heroes, he has no special powers or gadgets. All he's got are his sword, a whip and his wits. He is most definitely flesh and blood, man and not a digital character. (Banderas says he did most of the stunts himself because he wants to be honest with his fans).

The movie gently reminds us that we cannot change people. We can only unmask them. Long after Halloween is over, the "Zorro" in us must go through life's and love's endless masquerade.

For Feedback E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com or dollyanne@citykartracing.com

COOSOME twosome Jeremy Marquez and Alessandra de Rossi

Nikki and Gabriel: Hello, young lovers

By Kathryn L. Reyes

IT WAS A MATCH MADE IN A 30-second commercial.

Nikki Gil, the girl in the Coke TV ad who sings and hands out the soda to strangers, and Gabriel Valenciano, who appears with father Gary V in the Globe G-Cash ad, are officially a couple.

Nikki, 18, and Gabriel, 17, have known each other before they both joined show biz. She is an ABS-CBN talent and appears on "ASAP 2005," Myx and "Breakfast." He was recently in the cast of ABC 5's "Club_TV."

They go to the same church—Alabang New Life Christian Center, where they regularly participate in the church's Saturday youth and Sunday service. The courtship took all of seven months.

"What I like about him," Nikki says, "is that he is down-to-earth. I never imagined someone of his stature could be so humble."

Nikki, who was once linked to Martin Nievera's son, Robin, describes Gabriel as very proper. He is a perfect gentleman, she says.

NIKKI Gil

What touched her most during their courtship was when he invited her to a family dinner to meet his parents.

"We could have just gone out to dinner—just the two of us but he was thoughtful enough to introduce me to his family. That's something I will always remember," she says.

Nikki will guest in Christian Bautista's thanksgiving concert, "Heartfelt" at the Music Museum on Nov. 11 and 12.

The not-so-ordinary John Legend

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

TAKE FIVE

SINGER-SONGWRITER JOHN LEGEND IS the first artist who was signed to the record label Getting Out Our Dreams, owned by Kanye West, Grammy-winning rapper and producer of hip-hop.

Legend's music actually veers into soul, although in his impressive debut album "Get Lifted" (Sony-BMG), there's also a bit of the R&B/hip-hop hybrid that's been in vogue for some time. In any case, Legend's own greatness on a mass level should be apparent to those who've heard his songs on radio, particularly "Ordinary People."

In an exclusive phone interview from New York, Legend talks about Stevie Wonder, Al Green, writing songs on the piano, and why he doesn't smoke ganja (marijuana) anymore.

How did the piano help you in writing your songs?

The piano helped me in a way that it's such an expressive instrument, it was easier to write songs.

"Stay With You," "Ordinary People," and most tracks in your debut album have very simple lyrics but they work and sound good. Does it all boil down to how well you put together the groove and the music?

It's really the whole package. You isolate one element. You try to make the whole thing sound good together. It's not just about lyrics but about lyrics, melody, delivery, production, arrangement…everything.

In most of your songs, your voice sounds like Stevie Wonder in his prime, while in "Let's Get Lifted" you did a fine falsetto that recalls Al Green.

Well, I'd argue that my voice really doesn't sound like Stevie Wonder. But that's a matter of opinion. I do feel like I'm actually influenced by his music in a lot of ways…I love Stevie Wonder. He's one of my favorite artists of all time. He is one of the greatest soul music songwriters, singers, arrangers and producers that we've ever had. I'm a huge fan of his work. He captured the vulnerability of being human. Al Green? His voice is magical and he had one of the coolest music as well…Music that a lot of people still sing today.

Your songs are peppered with the word "high" and images of clouds and feelings of euphoria. Do you also share what many musicians love about the creative effects of smoking "ganja"?

You know, I used to, but I don't smoke it anymore. It's bad for my voice to smoke. But yeah, I've taken it. I enjoyed it while I did. But I never needed that to write. I've only rarely smoked.

"It Don't Have To Change" makes a very inspiring statement on the value of family and relationships. How important is family and values in black communities in America today?

Family has always been important and it doesn't matter whether you're African-American, white or Asian, as long as love is present.

How does it feel to be tagged as the male Alicia Keys?

I think they called me that because we both play the piano. I actually worked with Alicia Keys ("If I Ain't Got You") and she's just amazing.

LEGEND

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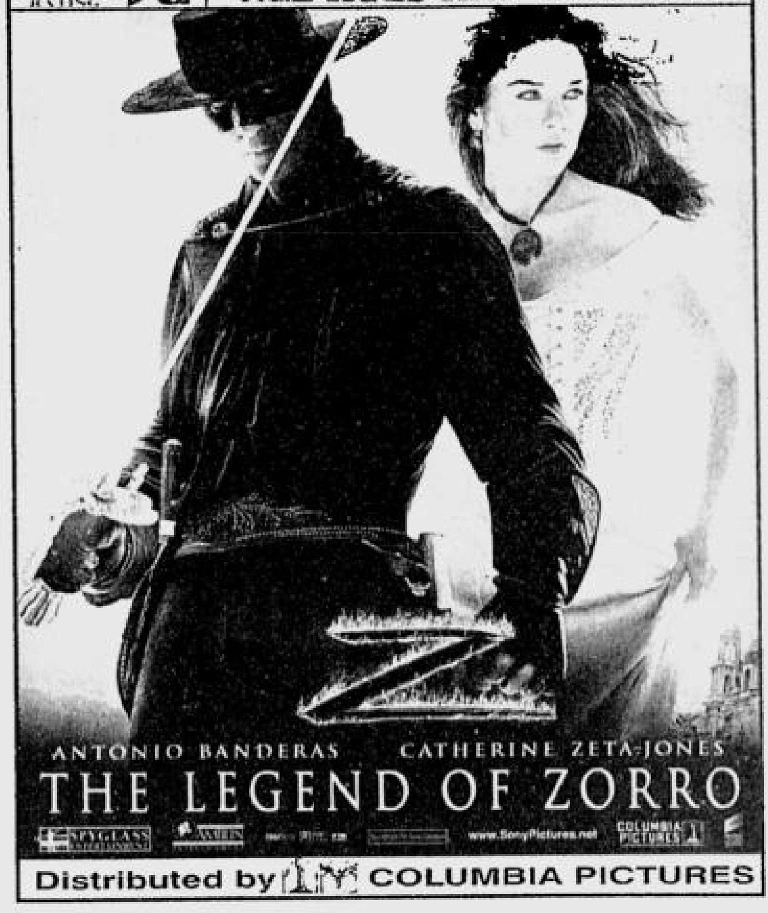

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THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 12:10 / 1:20 / 4:05 / 6:50 / 7:50 / 9:35	GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA DOOM 1:40 / 4:05 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 6:15/ 9:00
ISPIRITISTA 12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30	DOOM 2:15 / 4:40 / 7:05 / 9:30
MY SASSY GIRL 12:20 / 3:20 / 6:20 / 9:20	LORD OF WAR 6:50 / 9:30
DEUCE BIGALOW 2 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30	DUBAI 1:40 / 4:10 / 6:40 / 9:10
SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL 12:40 / 2:40 / 4:40	THE 40 YR OLD VIRGIN 1:00 / 3:40 / 6:20 / 9:00

ALI MALL CINEMAS

❶ ISPIRITISTA 12:00 R4 / 1:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 8:20	❹ MY SASSY GIRL 12:05 R2 / 2:45 / 5:45 / 8:45
❷ THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 12:00 R2 / 2:40 / 5:40 / 8:40	❺ LORD OF WAR 12:10 / 2:50 / 5:30 / 8:10
❸ DOOM 12:45 / 3:10 / 5:35 / 8:00	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS

GARY LEWIS AND THE PLAYBOYS LIVE October 28, Friday 8 pm	Oct 30 Sunday	GINEBRA vs STA LUCIA 4:10 pm PUREFOODS vs TALK N TEXT 6:40 pm

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"I Believe"
by Jimmy Bondoc

I believe - na ikaw lang at ako,
Kung kaya't tayo ay pinagtagpo.
I believe - ang kapalaran mo'y ako,
At sana ay ganun din ang puso mo.

Noong una ay hindi mo ako gusto.
Kaibigan lang ang turing mo -
Paano na ako?

Araw araw maghihintay.
Hawak lamang ang sinabi mong
baka mahal mo rin ako.
Tama na sa'kin ang minsa'y
binigyan mo ng pag-asa.
Basta't mahal kita.
Ikaw lang at ako ang magsasabi ng
"I Love You".

I Believe - may ibang pangarap ka,
At ka'y tagal nating di magkikita.
Kung saan ka dalhin ng puso mo -
Asahan mong ang pag-ibig ko'y sa'yo.

Lumipas ang araw at parang kay tagal.
Sa mga bituin nakatingin,
Kausap ay ikaw.

Ang buhay ko'y ikaw kailanpaman.
Kahit tayo'y magkalayo,
Tadhana na ang siyang daan -
Ng pag-ibig mo'y maramdaman.
Basta't ito ang pangako ko.

Ikaw lang at ako ang magsasabi ng
"I Love You".

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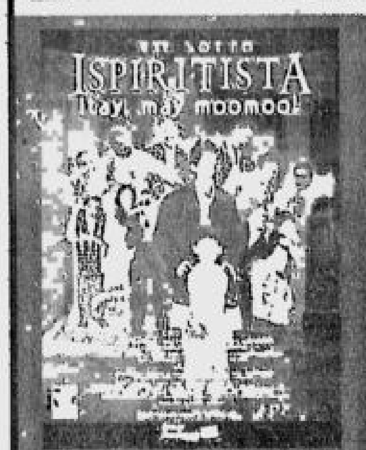
Ispiritista

Legend Of Zorro

My Sassy Girl

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Megamall
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Cinema 2

Megamall
WAITING
October 28, 2005
Cinema 3

BARBIE XU
The Ghost Inside

GUARANTEED SEATS

THE PODIUM 633-8976
1 DOOM
11:30FS/12:00MF/02:15/04:30/06:45
08:30LFS/09:00LMF/10:45END
2 LEGEND OF ZORRO
12:50FS/01:20MF/04:00
09:10LFS/09:50LMF/12:00END

MEGAMALL
1 DOOM
10:30FS/10:50MF/01:05/03:20/5:35/07:50
09:35LFS/10:00LMF/11:45END

CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 DOOM
12:00FS/12:10MF/02:02/03:54/05:46/07:38
09:22LFS/09:30LMF/11:15END
2 LEGEND OF ZORRO
11:20FS/11:30MF/02:00/04:30/07:00
09:18LFS/09:30LMF/11:50END
3 TRANSPORTER 2
12:00FS/12:10MF/02:02/03:54/05:46/07:38
09:08LFS/09:30LMF/11:00END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 DOUBLE DOOM
2 DEUCE BIGALOW
3 LEGEND OF ZORRO
4 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
5 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
6 LORD OF WAR
7 DUBAI
8 ISPIRITISTA
9 LEGEND OF ZORRO
10 DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
11 TRANSPORTER 2
12 MY SASSY GIRL

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
2 LORD OF WAR
3 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
4 DOOM
5 DEUCE BIGALOW
6 ISPIRITISTA
7 LEGEND OF ZORRO
8 MY SASSY GIRL
9 DUBAI
10 LAND OF THE DEAD
11 DARK WATER
12 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
4 DUBAI
5 MY SASSY GIRL
6 LORD OF WAR
7 DOOM
8 DEUCE BIGALOW

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 MY SASSY GIRL
3 DOOM
4 DUBAI
5 ISPIRITISTA
6 DEUCE BIGALOW
7 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
8 LORD OF WAR
9 LAND OF THE DEAD
10 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 DUBAI
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 DOOM
5 MY SASSY GIRL
6 DEUCE BIGALOW
7 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
8 LORD OF WAR
9 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
10 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS

SM CITY MANILA
1 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
2 DOOM
3 INTO THE BLUE
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO
5 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
6 LEGEND OF ZORRO
7 ISPIRITISTA
8 DEUCE BIGALOW
9 ISPIRITISTA
10 MY SASSY GIRL
11 LORD OF WAR
12 DUBAI

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 MY SASSY GIRL
4 DOOM

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 MY SASSY GIRL
2 LEGEND OF ZORRO
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 DOOM

SM CINEMA SAN LAZARO
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 DOOM
3 DEUCE BIGALOW
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5 DUBAI
6 ISPIRITISTA

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SM CITY PAMPANGA
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2 LEGEND OF ZORRO
3 TRANSPORTER 2
4 DUBAI
5 ISPIRITISTA
6 ISPIRITISTA

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 LEGEND OF ZORRO
3 PERFECT CATCH
4 ISPIRITISTA

SM CITY BACOOR
1 LORD OF WAR
2 MY SASSY GIRL
3 LEGEND OF ZORRO
4 ISPIRITISTA
5 LEGEND OF ZORRO
6 ISPIRITISTA
7 DUBAI
8 DOOM

SM CITY MARILAO
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 PERFECT CATCH

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 DOOM
2 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO

SM CITY LUCENA
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 LAND OF THE DEAD
4 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
4 DUBAI

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 DOOM
2 LEGEND OF ZORRO
3 TRANSPORTER 2
4 WALLACE AND GROMIT
5 LORD OF WAR
6 DUBAI
7 ISPIRITISTA
8 DEUCE BIGALOW

SM CITY ILOILO
1 DUBAI
2 RESERVED
3 ONE MISSED CALL 2
4 ISPIRITISTA
5 ISPIRITISTA
6 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
7 RESERVED
8 BLADE OF ROSE

SM CITY DAVAO
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 UNDISCOVERED
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 LORD OF WAR
5 INTO THE BLUE
6 DUBAI

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 CROW 4
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 TRANSPORTER 2

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*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

Sizzling start for new season of 'The Apprentice'

LAST Oct. 17, THE NEW SEASON OF "THE Apprentice—Donald Trump" started telecasting on ABC 5 (it airs every Monday at 10 p.m.). The show got off to a sizzling start when the women's team was immediately rocked by controversy: A Latina contestant named Melissa got on the wrong side of the other women.

She rubbed them the wrong way with her aggressive behavior and pungent vocabulary.

Things got so bad that her teammates all pleaded with Trump to kick her out of the show—or else!

The men's team had fewer problems, but it wasn't on easy street, either. Its bone of contention was its chosen leader—an inventor who had his doubts about whether he would make a good team manager.

But the men's team surmounted that problem, and went on to win the season's first test: To make as much money as possible from special workout classes for a health and body-building facility.

After the women lost, it was finger-pointing time, and all of the fingers were pointed at Melissa. She stumbled all over herself in her self-defense, and made things even worse when she admitted that she couldn't work with women.

And, why not?

"Because they resent my being more beautiful and smarter than they are," she shot back—not realizing that she had just hammered in the last nail on her coffin.

That's what makes "The Apprentice" a must-see "business melodrama" for some viewers. Aside from the stressful and tearful confrontations, the show provides us with tips for success (what to do and what not to do) in our own quest for fulfilling work and fortune.

Talking points that emerged from the premiere telecast: Don't throw your weight around. Don't tick off your team leader and teammates. Be a team player.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Will Stewart trump Trump? Will Trump show Stewart the door?

STEWART

Know your place in the team—and don't talk back to **Donald Trump**!

Incidentally, the new season of Trump's "Apprentice" is being shown by ABC 5 a day before **Martha Stewart**'s own "Apprentice" (Tuesdays at 10 p.m.), which started telecasting last Oct. 18.

We think that's canny and even "naughty" programming because it invites viewers to watch both shows and to make possibly odious comparisons between the two programs and the very different hosting styles of Trump and Stewart.

Will Stewart trump Trump? Will Trump show Stewart the door? Why not catch both shows and decide for yourself?

'Art for Change'

THE ANNUAL "Art for Change" contest sponsored by the office of Sen. **Aquilino Pimentel, Jr.** will reel off on Oct. 29 at Robinsons Place on Edsa corner Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City.

A brainchild of Sen. Pimentel, the contest seeks to inspire budding artists to develop their talent in painting.

Sen. Pimentel is inviting parents and their artistically inclined children to sign up for the on-the-spot painting competition, which is now on its fifth year. Attractive prizes are at stake.

With the title as theme, young participants are asked to visualize their sentiments and interpretation of the ongoing political ferment and other issues that affect the youth's lives and future.

The art tilt is supported by Robinsons Place Pioneer, Cacho Hermanos Inc., National Bookstore, San Miguel Corp., De La Rosa Transit, Chowking, Universal Robina Corp., Enchanted Kingdom, Cebu Pacific, Fibisco, Nestlé Ice Cream, Growers Nuts, Quiapo Printing Inc., The Manila Peninsula, Shepherd's Voice Publications Inc., Philippine High School for the Arts, Jollibee and Pan Pacific Manila. Call **Eppie Sonjaco** at 552-6733 or 552-6745.

'Amazing Race' format deal

AXN Asia has acquired the rights to localize the popular reality competition, "The Amazing Race."

The uniquely Asian edition of the challenge series promises to highlight the region's energy and diversity.

The US version of the show is watched by 16 million viewers across Asia on AXN, so the projected version that will be made in Asia for Asians should be even more popular with viewers in the region.

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CINEMA 4 LEGEND of ZORRO - GP 10:35, 1:15, 3:55, 6:35, 9:20
CINEMA 5 LEGEND of ZORRO - GP 11:25, 2:05, 4:45, 7:25, 10:10
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SHANG CINEPLEX
1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO MTRCB: GP 12 00, 3 00, 6 00, 9 00
2 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO MTRCB: GP 1 00 4 00 7 00 10 00
3 DOOM MTRCB: R-13 2 15, 4 50, 7 25, 10:00
4 THE ADVENTURES OF SHARKBOY & LAVAGIRL MTRCB: GP 1 10, 3 15, 5 20, 7 25, 9:30
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MTRCB GP 10 30 1 30, 4 30
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2 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO GP
3 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO GP
4 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN 12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:00 R-13

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2 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO GP 12:10,2:50,5:30,8:10
3 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO GP 1:00,3:40,6:20,9:00
4 DOOM R13 1:45,3:55,6:05,8:15
5 THE 40 YEAR-OLD VIRGIN R13 12:00,2:25,4:50,7:15,9:40
6 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO GP 1:50,4:30,7:10,9:50

Chx doesn't live here anymore

From page A26

model who's also a movie and TV bit player.

Chx answered questions in a mix of English and Tagalog, controlling tears when asked about her pictures in compromising poses circulating among the cell phone-using public.

She admitted that it was indeed her picture—which made her even more unpopular among millions of PBB viewers. She never expected that the indiscretion, which was largely blamed on her ex-boyfriend, Love Chavani, would be leaked to the public.

Naughty poses

"I believed him (Love) when he said he didn't [circulate the picture]," said Chx.

She explained that taking each other's pictures was part of their lovemaking.

"I would take his picture with my cell phone to document the progress of his body building," said Chx. "He would take my picture in naughty poses using his cell phone. Doing these things spiced up our love life."

She said both their cell phones were encrypted and no one could possibly access their private pictures, taken about a year-and-a-half ago.

"But I left my cell phone in a taxi cab," said Chx. "The taxi driver, who could have found it, must have figured out my password. Or he could have sold the cell phone. I don't know."

The "dirty pictures" not only sealed her fate in PBB, but also humiliated her family.

"My *lola* no longer wants to leave the house," Chx said.

The kiss

The other issue she was asked at the press con was her wanton kiss with Sam. She claimed it was as far as they got—sexually—in the PBB.

"Who wouldn't want to kiss Sam? People outside the PBB house want to kiss him. So do I," she said.

Chx is the fifth housemate evicted from the PBB house this season. She followed school teacher Raquel, whom she edged out in the last eviction by only a few thousand votes, and Bob, who was forced to quit for health reasons.

Rico and JB were the first to leave. Jenny voluntarily left the PBB house after Rico, to visit her ailing father, who died shortly after her visit. She has since returned to the PBB house to take over Bob's slot, as provided in the PBB rules and regulations.

The last housemate standing in PBB will bring home a total of P5 million worth of prizes, which include a cool million bucks and a house and lot package.

PBB housemates, including those evicted, have a standard six-month contract with ABS-CBN, where they would be groomed for stardom.

"Given the opportunity, I'd like to have a show biz career," Chx said.

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3 DOOM
4 MY SASSY GIRL
5 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
6 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
7 MASAHISTA
8 LORD OF WAR
9 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
10 TRANSPORTER 2

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
2 LORD OF WAR
3 DOOM
4 MY SASSY GIRL
5 ISPIRITISTA
6 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
7 DEUCE BIGALOW 2

METRO EAST 682-8193 - 682-8199

1 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
2 LORD OF WAR
3 MY SASSY GIRL
4 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
5 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
6 DOOM
7 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
8 ISPIRITISTA

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 DOOM
4 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
5 LORD OF WAR
6 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2

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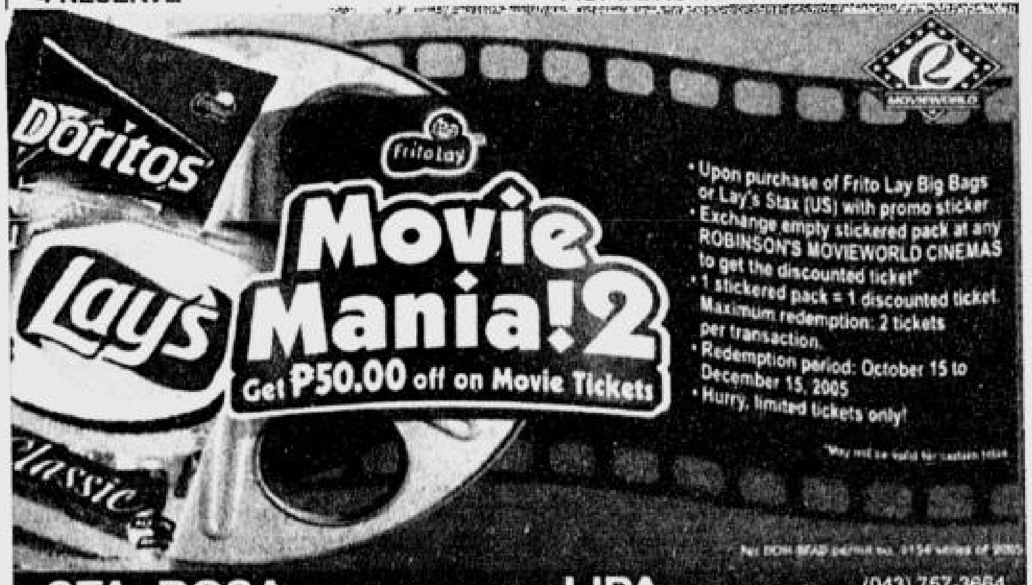
2 MY SASSY GIRL
3 DOOM
4 ISPIRITISTA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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
G1 GLORIETTA 1	DOOM	LEGEND OF ZORRO	MY SASSY GIRL	ISPIRITISTA			
G4 GLORIETTA 4	DEUCE BIGALOW: EUROPEAN GIGOLO	THE 40 YEAR-OLD-VIRGIN	THX LEGEND OF ZORRO 2 00, 4 50, 7 40 10 10 GUARANTEED SEATS	LUTHER	ISPIRITISTA	LEGEND OF ZORRO	DOOM
GB1 GREENBELT 1	DOOM 1.05, 3 10, 5.25, 7 20, 9 25	LEGEND OF ZORRO 12 30, 3 15, 6 00, 8 45					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	THX LEGEND OF ZORRO 3 05, 5 50, 8 35, 11 20 GUARANTEED SEATS	THX LEGEND OF ZORRO 2 15, 5 00, 7 45, 10 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	LORD OF WAR 1 25, 3 45, 6 05, 8 25, 10 45 GUARANTEED SEATS	DOOM 2 10, 4 15, 6 20, 8 25 10 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	LEGEND OF ZORRO 1 50 4 15, 6 40, 9 05, 11 30 GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	THX LEGEND OF ZORRO	DEUCE BIGALOW: EUROPEAN GIGOLO	DOOM	ISPIRITISTA	LEGEND OF ZORRO		
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SCULPTURED TREATS

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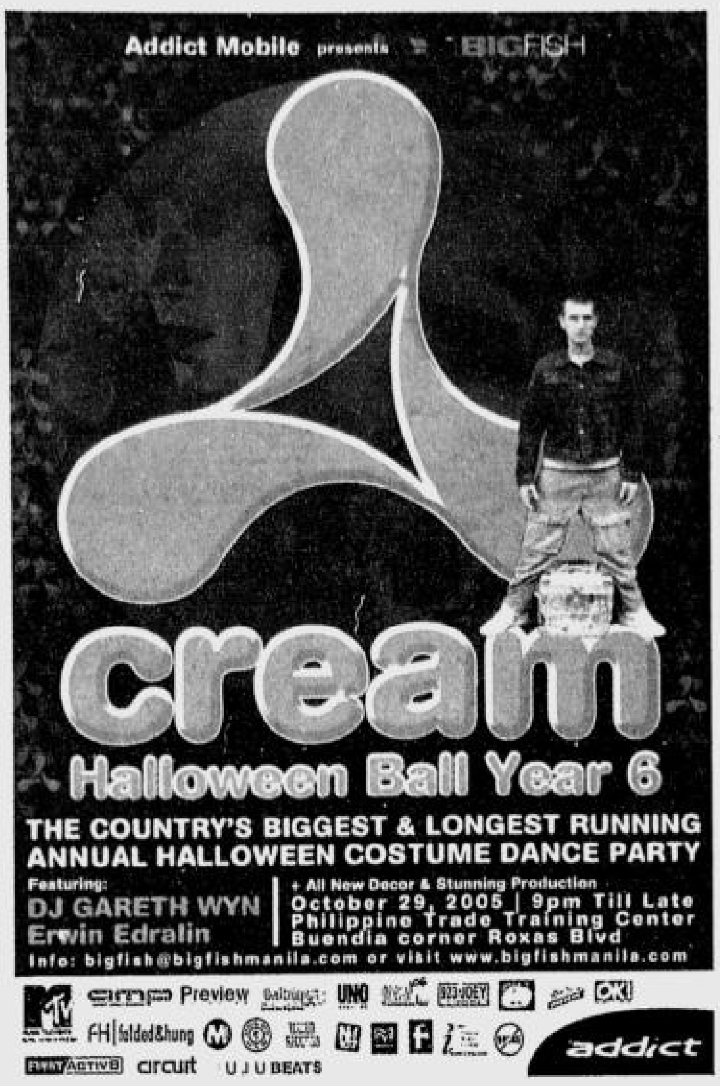
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Chx doesn't live here anymore

By Nini Valera

CHX ALCALA, THE BICOLANA BOMBSHELL evicted from the "Pinoy Big Brother" house last Saturday, vowed she would wait for Fil-American housemate Sam and continue their budding romance.

"I want him," Chx told Inquirer Entertainment last Monday. "I told him I would wait for him outside [the PBB house]."

The two had a tearful farewell on national television, further fueling speculation among the housemates and the nation that the pair was having an affair inside the PBB house, which started a few weeks ago.

But it was Chx's passionate kiss with Sam during a party in the PBB house that started the downtrend in her popularity among viewers. She garnered six percent of text votes—the lowest so far in PBB's two-month history—and was booted out.

During Monday's press conference, Chx, 24, dressed in a skimpy black outfit, oozed with confidence and sexuality.

"I'm only wearing bra and panties under this dress," she said when asked what she was wearing under her outfit.

"I'm used to dressing up this way even before 'Pinoy Big Brother,'" said the former ramp

CHX/ A24

G. Velarde

ALCALA: It's all over.

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THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 27, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

B1

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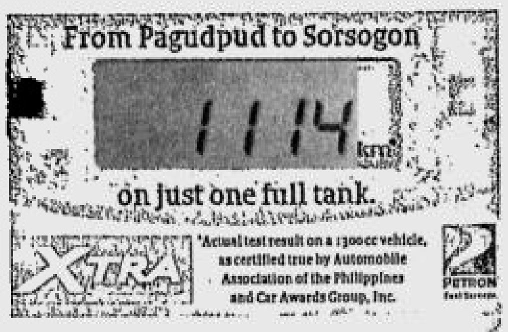

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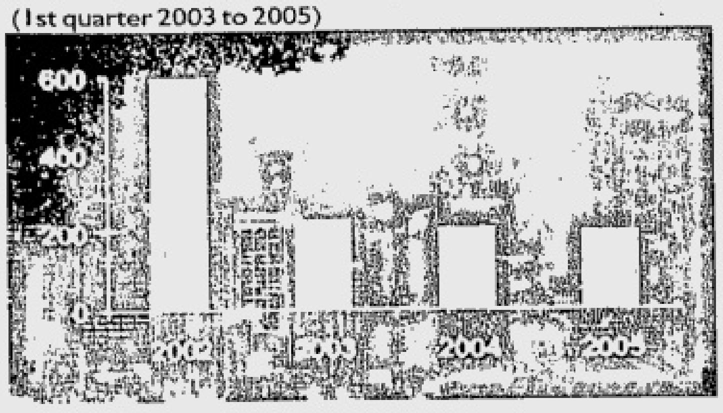
$3B in OFW remittances eludes banks

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Number of office building permits
(1st quarter 2003 to 2005)



Source: National Statistics Office and PDI archives

HEAVY investment in the property sector during the 1990s led to an oversupply of office buildings which have yet to be fully occupied almost a decade later. The construction of new condominium offices nationwide has thus been declining in recent years. Local building officials issued only 204 permits for such structures in 2005, almost a third of the 599 permits approved in 2002. However, the increase in call centers and business process outsourcing companies is boosting demand for office space and may soon eliminate vacancies in existing buildings.
Jamie Alarcon, PDI Research

Informal channels take up 30% of inflows

By Doris C. Dumlao

AS MUCH AS $3 BILLION IN REmittances from overseas Filipino workers are still coursed through the informal channels, a government study showed.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. yesterday said that on top of the $10.3 billion in remittances expected to be captured by the banking system this year, more funds were flowing in through such channels as couriers.

In a forum with the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines, he added that OFW flows would continue expanding in the years ahead and that the so-called leakages—or those not being captured by the banks—would gradually decline.

"As we are able to improve remittance systems and able to use technology, we'll see more and more portions of these remittances into the banking channel," Tetangco said.

Based on a study on the Mexican experience, remittances held as deposits in the banking system had a beneficial multiplier effect of between two to three times as these could be channeled to investments including small and microbusinesses. As such, the BSP is promoting the use of formal banking channels as a safer and more productive cash remittance system for millions of OFWs.

But even if some OFW inflows were eluding the banking system at present, Tetangco said these would still benefit the economy as a whole.

"It still goes into the country, still goes to

$3B IN OFW/ B4

USED-CAR IMPORTS

SBMA resumes issuance of permits

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BOARD OF THE SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN Authority has decided to resume processing applications for permits to import used vehicles despite howls of protest from local vehicle assemblers decrying the "smuggling" through the freeport.

According to a government source privy to the matter, the SBMA board made the decision in a meeting earlier this month.

The move was made considering that the Supreme Court has yet to rule with finality on whether the importation and entry of used vehicles through the Subic freeport was legal, according to the source.

The official said that since a prohibition was still not executory, the SBMA was duty-bound to entertain applications for import permits and act on them.

The official added that some 600 applications had been pending since the SBMA stopped processing such requests due to protests that

SBMA/ B2

WHAT'S INSIDE

P2.4B in projects gets BOI tax perks /B3

Subic-Kaohsiung corridor planned /B5

Breaktime: Thug of war /B2

Single Asian currency eyed to fend off crises

By Daxim L. Lucas

ASIAN COUNTRIES MUST REVIVE EFFORTS to create a single currency that will not only foster greater regional trade, but also protect against external financial shocks similar to the 1997 East Asian financial crisis.

This was the recommendation made by Asian Development Bank president Haruhiko Kuroda as he urged Asian leaders to capitalize on the vast amount of foreign exchange reserves held by countries in the region.

"Large trade surpluses and foreign direct

SINGLE/ B4

INDICATORS

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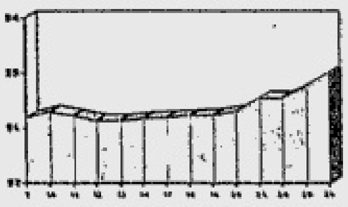

OCTOBER

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¥115.45 = $1
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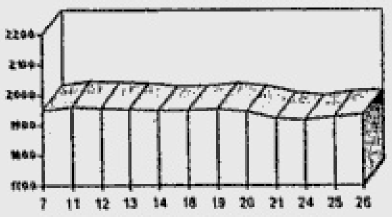
GOLD: $473.10-473.60
per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 26, 2005

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Shares rise 0.37%

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.37 percent higher yesterday thanks to last-minute bargain hunting in selected stocks, dealers said.

They said trade continued cautious, however, with investors divided between chasing cheaper stocks and keeping on the sideline following Wall Street's losses overnight and in the absence of fresh leads.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index added 7.06 points to 1,934.55 after trading in a tight range between 1,923.71 and 1,935.57. Volume was 356.55 million shares worth P1. *AFP*

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Thug of war

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

IT IS NOT EVERYDAY THAT WE see—at least not down here in my barangay—this most interesting legal battle royal (translation: tug of war) between two of the country's most influential business figures.

They are, of course, newspaper owner Emilio Yap, care of the Manila Hotel group, and Lucio Tan, one of the taipans (i.e. filthy rich Chinese Filipinos) in the company called Asian Emerging Dragon Corp.

In the early 1990s—or only more than 10 years ago—AEDC proposed, upon the prodding of the administration of Fidel "Kuya Eddie" Ramos, a build-operate-transfer deal to build an international airport terminal.

The project is now known as the infamous Naia Terminal 3. It has been delayed for almost 10 years, but is still the subject of numerous court cases reaching as far as the United States and Singapore.

It all started when another group ousted AEDC from the airport terminal picture.

At that time, the group was still called "Paircargo consortium." Later, it became known as Piatco, which had the German firm Fraport as major investor.

Now, the Supreme Court ruled as NULL and VOID the very same contract between the government and that Paircargo consortium (later as Piatco), involving the BOT project in which the AEDC insisted on being the original proponent.

And so AEDC recently filed a case before the Supreme Court, basically laying down its claim on the still unfinished project.

The company also asked the Supreme Court to stop this cute administration of Gloriaetta from bidding out Naia 3.

Now controlled by Lucio "Kapitan" Tan, AEDC now seems to be flying directly in the path of Emilio "the Don" Yap.

The people of the "Don" already announced that he bought 50 percent of the Piatco, despite all its troubles.

Both the Kapitan and the "Don" are said to be, well, shall we say, "good" at winning cases before the Supreme Court.

Who's the thug between the two is up the court to decide.

And the suspense is killing us down here.

We cannot wait to find out the concluding episode in this courtroom soap in the making, simply because it's only our future - as we will be paying for the whole thing—which the Supreme Court will decide on.

***

BASED on its petition before the Supreme Court, AEDC appears to have no choice but to file the case.

It alleged that the DOTC (or Department of Transportation and Communications) already decided against the AEDC claim to take over Naia 3.

AEDC quoted the letter from the Office of the Solicitor General:

"We have carefully searched Philippine law, in vain, for the basis of what you claim is AEDC's 'vested and perfected legal right to operate (Naia 3) …'

"We have also searched carefully the 1996 Memorandum of Understanding."

"We see nothing in its language to believe that there is any existing obligation on the part of government to recognize in AEDC the right to operate the terminal."

That "1996" MOU, precisely, was the agreement between the administration of Kuya Eddie and the AEDC, as the original proponent of the "unsolicited" BOT project proposal.

(See, that was almost 10 years ago! That's why, according to the AEDC timetable, the Naia 3 should have been operational by 1999 at the latest. Today, only six years later, the terminal is not yet finished.)

In effect, under that "1996" MOU, the Kuya Eddie administration already awarded the project to AEDC. All of a sudden, AEDC was taken out of the project by Paircargo consotirum (later Piatco).

And AEDC keeps on noting in its petition that the Supreme Court already booted out its replacement, Paircargo-turned-Piatco, from the project.

AEDC thus claims that, as the original project proponent, it should now get the right to operate the terminal.

AEDC told the court that the issues in its case are important in the BOT schemes, which precisely intends to give the private sector a big role in helping the government solve the country's infrastructure problems.

It is, in other words, not for anything else like an ongoing fight of the "Don" against Kapitan or something like that, but the good of the country.

***

AS I said, back in the early 1990s, Kuya Eddie himself handpicked six taipans (i.e filthy rich Chinese Filipinos) to do something good for the country. AEDC was born out of the concept of public service—first and foremost.

In its earlier ruling that erased the contract between Paircargo consortium (later Piatco) and the government (then c/o the Kuya Eddie administration), the Supreme Court noted anomalies in the process and in the contract itself.

We have been talking about all the foolishness in the deal all this time, spanning three administrations already, including this cute administration and the one it ousted, that of the man named Band … Wrist Band.

One of them was, as AEDC pointed out in its new petition, that AEDC persisted and insisted on getting from the DOTC at that time, the details of the proposal from the Paircargo consortium (later Piatco).

Under the BOT law, AEDC was supposed to match the proposal of the challenger, which was Paircargo consortium.

In answer to AEDC's request, the DOTC said that those things are … well, "confidential."

How the AEDC was supposed to match something that AEDC had no idea about, the DOTC of course forgot to say. And so AEDC went to court to fight it out with the Paircargo consortium.

Subsequently, AEDC backed out of the case, saying it had reached an out of court settlement with the Wrist Band administration.

But now, based on the new AEDC petition, the story can be told.

***

IT seems that Wrist Band himself ordered the AEDC to withdraw the case against the DOTC. But why?

The AEDC petition stated: "The President's (meaning, Wrist Band) direct intervention in the disposition of this mandamus case was a clear imposition that Petitioner AEDC had no choice but to accept.

"To do otherwise was to take a confrontational stance against the most powerful man in the country then under the great risk of catching his ire, which could have led to untold consequences upon the business interests of the stakeholders in AEDC.

"Thus, Petitioner AEDC was constrained to agree to the signing of a joint motion to dismiss and to the filing of the same in court."

But then later, during the Senate hearings on the controversial Naia 3 project, the AEDC found out the reason behind Wrist Band's imposition.

It found out that, during the Kuya Eddie administration, the DOTC had a secret agreement with Paircargo consortium (later Piatco) on that same case.

And that was, if the AEDC would win, and the DOTC had to show AEDC the details of the proposal from Paircargo-turned-Piatco, which would then give AEDC the chance to get back the project, then the consortium would get rich quickly.

You see, the agreement required the government to give the consortium P180 million, just like that.

Incidentally, the same secret agreement became public for the first time during the Senate hearings.

***

INTERESTINGLY enough, as this cute administration of Gloriaetta rejects outright the claim of AEDC over the Naia 3 as its original proponent under the BOT "unsolicited proposal" scheme, somebody once said something brilliant about the BOT law.

And it goes: "The object of the amendment is to protect proponents which have already incurred costs in the conceptual design and in the preparation of the proposal, and which may have adopted an imaginative method of construction or innovative concept for the proposal.

"The amendment also aims to harness the ingenuity of the private sector to come up with solutions to the country's infrastructure problems."

Again, all that referred to the BOT law. And the words were uttered by a certain lady senator back then by the name of Gloria Macapal-Arroyo, whose cute administration of Gloriaetta today seems to go the opposite direction.

Even AEDC said so in its petition.

That's all for now, but I'll back in future pieces on this legal battle royale between Kapitan and the "Don."

SBMA resumes issuance …

From page B1

led to cases filed in court.

"But there is reason to believe that the market for used vehicle imports is declining," the official said.

"There are around 3,000 import permit still unused," the source added. "If demand is still brisk, these permits should have been depleted a long time ago."

SBMA records show that since 2001, at least 90,000 cars, commercial vehicles and heavy equipment have entered the freeport.

Asked about reports that Malacañang had given the go-ahead for used vehicle importation "to resume," the source said the SBMA received no such document or directive.

Last month, local assemblers expressed alarm that Malacañang ordered all concerned departments and agencies to allow the entry of imported used vehicles into the Subic special economic zone, which the industry blames for its slow recovery and stunting of the local market.

Elizabeth H. Lee, vice president of the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc., said the order was likely to arrest the already slow growth in overall sales since the used vehicles eat up on their relatively small market.

National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Republic of the Philippines
NPC-MMSD 2005-025

Hauling Services & various Spare Parts for NPC Small Power Utilities Group

1. The NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION (NPC), through its approved Corporate Budget of CY 2005 intends to apply the sum of (Please see schedule under item no. 9) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract listed below. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. NPC now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for GOODS listed below. Delivery of the GOODS is required by the date indicated in the bid documents. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from NPC and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM from Monday to Friday. Issuance of Bidding Documents shall start on October 27, 2005 from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM Monday to Friday. No Bid Documents shall be issued on the date of bidding.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount listed below. The method of payment will be cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. NPC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on dates listed below at the designated NPC function rooms.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address as listed in the Bid Documents on or before the dates stated below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form as stated in the Bid Documents. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on the dates specified hereunder at the designated NPC function rooms. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. ITEMS FOR BID

Schedule	Date/Time & Place of Bidding	Item Description	PR No./ Inquiry No.	ABC (In Pesos)	Bid Docs Price
I	November 22, 2005 10:00 AM Kañao Room	Supply of labor, technical skills, materials equipment, etc. for the overhauling & dynamic balancing of four (4) units Exhaust Gas Turbo-chargers type VTR 304A for Power Barge 105	PB051122-MMVB3793 MR-PB5-05-0092	3,141,976.00	1,000.00
II		Computer Leasing (78 units of Notebook Computer) for ISTD, NPC-OBC, Diliman, Q.C.	IST-2005 010	2,340,000.00	1,000.00
III		Spare Parts for 2 x 560 kw at Torrijos DPP "Dale"	PB051122-MMVB3794 SL-TOR-05-0076	5,201,840.00	2,000.00
IV		Spare Parts for 2 x 500KW for Torrijos DPP "CKD"	PB051122-MMVB3795 SL-TOR-05-063	1,062,400.00	500.00
V	November 22, 2005 2:00 PM Kañao Room	Hauling Services: Pier to Door Delivery of diesel fuel from Masbate Pier to various Luzon SPUG Plants	PB051122-MMVB3796 HO-LOD-05-0173	2,000,080.00	1,000.00
VI		Motor Core Tester 90-130V/ 180-260V 60Hz @ 10VA for WMTSD	PB051122-MMVB3797 HO-MTS-05-0143	2,900,000.00	1,000.00
VII		Parts for Air Compressor 1 & 2 HC 85M; Maker: Hasegawa Japan for 14.4 MW Power Barge 106	PB0041213-MMAM2681 (PB2) VR-PB6-04-060	924,000.00	500.00

NOTE: A Pre-bidding Conference will be held for the following bidding schedules:

Schedule	Date	Time	Place
Schedule I - VII	Nov. 8, 2005	2.00 PM	Director's Lounge, 2nd Floor Bldg. 1

10. NPC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

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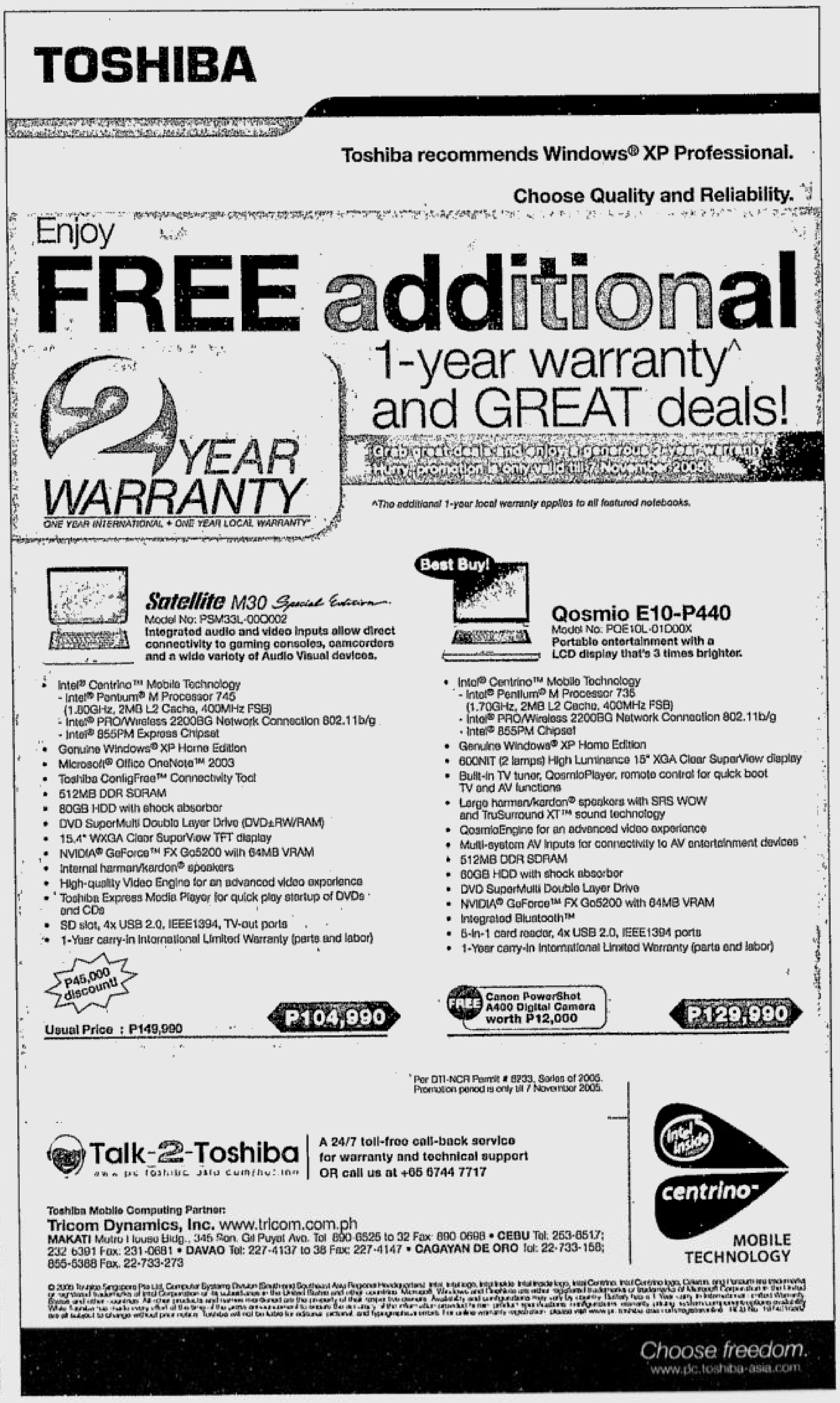
(PDI - Oct. 27 & Nov. 3, 2005)



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₱2.4B in projects gets BOI tax perks

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BOARD OF INVESTMENTS HAS APproved tax perks for some P2.4 billion worth of investments, including the first batch of eight projects under its accelerated registration efforts.

Trade Undersecretary Elmer C. Hernandez said the BOI's board of governors granted a non-pioneer status to Asahi Glass Philippines Inc.'s P1.73-billion expansion of its float glass line.

Hernandez, who is also BOI managing head, explained that the project uses the technique of floating molten glass in a tin bath to produce distortion-free glass.

He said the incentives granted to AGP covered a four-year tax holiday and duty-free importation of capital equipment.

The project would bring AGP's float glass production capacity to 189,800 metric tons yearly from 146,000 MT.

Also, Hernandez said the BOI had granted perks to eight projects through a pilot test of its simplified approval process aimed at reducing to a day the 20-working-day approval period set by law.

With the accelerated approval process, the entire registration procedure-including the issuance of the registration papers—would be cut short to four days from the usual 30 days.

"We expect to fully implement this process in January 2006 and hopefully make it the usual way of registering investments," Hernandez said.

The eight projects include Keppel Marine Philippines' P574-million, new-technology shipbuilding venture in Bauan, Bantangas.

Keppel plans to produce a tugboat, a cargo vessel and an oil rig hull each year.

The output is meant for the markets in Europe, the Middle East and other parts of Asia.

The other projects are OmniPrime Corp.'s P41.5-million wireless communication project; Firm Builders Realty Development Corp.'s P41-million low-cost housing project; Golden Genesis Marine Resources Corp.'s P28-million commercial fishing venture; RT Global Detailing and Consulting Inc.'s P3.1-million engineering design project; MD Infoman Solutions Inc.'s P6-million data entry services project; IQ West Outsource Technologies Inc.'s P5-million medical transcription project; and Phil-Green Enterprises Corp.'s P2.6 million venture in okra farming.

Landco plans new projects

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PROPERTY DEVELOPER LANDCO PACIFIC Corp., a subsidiary of Metro Pacific Corp., is set to launch five major projects, including the tourism development at the 400-hectare Villa Escudero in San Pablo City, Laguna, said Landco senior vice-president Alfred Xerez-Burgos III.

Landco assistant vice-president Michael Reyes said during the Good News Kapihan at the Global Cafe in Makati yesterday that Landco would need at least P1 billion to bankroll the Villa Escudero development.

The development will consist of residential villages, retirement homes and projects related to tourism.

Landco signed an agreement with Villa Escudero Corp. in August to develop the 500-hectare property into a mixed-use tourism project.

The first phase of Hacienda Escudero, which will cover approximately 30 hectares, is estimated to cost roughly P500 million.

Aside from Hacienda Escudero, Landco plans a joint venture with Capitol Hills Golf to develop a 150-hectare golf resort estate in Macabud, Montalban.

Landco plans to tap first and second home buyers, and promises a vacation home just in the outskirts of Quezon City.

Landco is also set to launch Punta Fuego's newest lifestyle concept dubbed "Amara en Terrazas", an exclusive condominium community made up of ocean front residences with the luxury of having a private beach and the convenience of condominium living.

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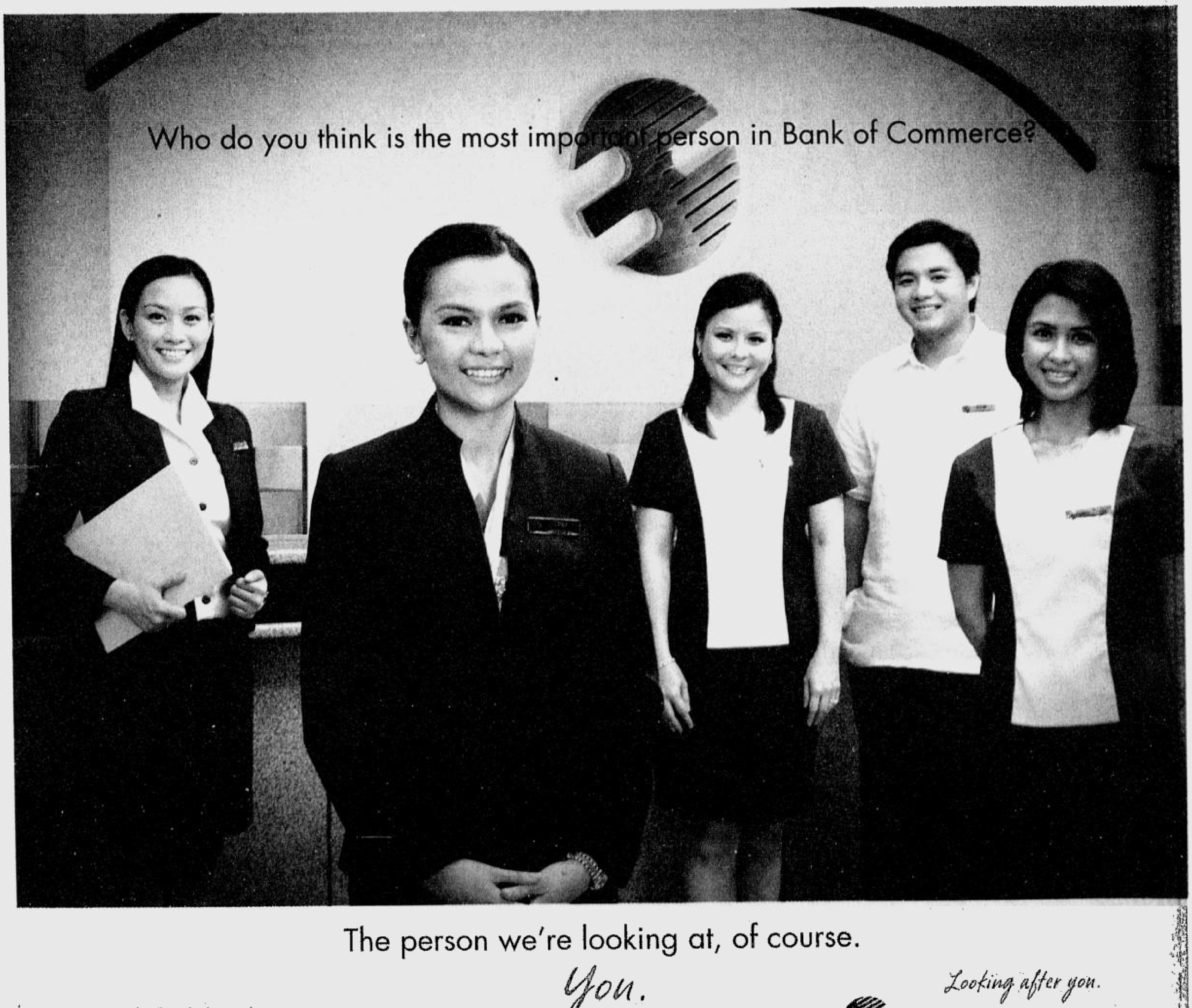
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STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.65	22,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	30	30.5	30	30.5	176,800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50.5	50.5	50.5	50.5	302,800
China Banking Corp.	600	605	600	605	550,430
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	330,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	47.5	47.5	47	47	3,800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27	27	26.5	27	220,000
Philippine National Bank	30	30	30	30	2,600
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	800
Union Bank of the Phil.	29	29	29	29	11,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	20,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2810	2810	2810	2810	350
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	31,400
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.89	0.89	150,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	710	710	700	700	30,200
Ipeople Inc.	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	40,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.85	2.9	2.85	2.85	1,934,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1640	1660	1635	1660	208,830
Ivantage Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	620,000
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	3,800,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.5	16,000
Manila Electric Co. B	20.25	20.25	20	20	146,500
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	209,000
Petron Corp.	3.3	3.35	3.3	3.3	5,446,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.92	0.98	0.92	0.97	290,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3	298,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.61	0.66	0.61	0.66	110,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	100,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	270,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.2	3.65	3.2	3.65	11,643,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	28	28	28	28	500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	35	35.5	35	35.5	57,000
Pancake House Inc.	2.65	2.65	2.6	2.6	120,000
BFM Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	70,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65	64	65	51,400
San Miguel Corp. B	89.5	90	89.5	90	294,500
Universal Robina Corp.	16.25	16.25	16	16	1,400
Vitarich Corp.	0.31	0.32	0.3	0.32	490,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0065	0.007	0.0065	0.007	3,000,000
Ayala Corp.	285	287.5	282.5	282.5	68,790
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	50,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	11,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.14	2.14	2.12	2.12	1,320,000
APC Group Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.2	0.2	330,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	9,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.84	0.84	0.82	0.82	2,090,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	17,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.99	1	0.99	1	1,480,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.2	0.215	0.2	0.21	1,040,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	660,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.24	0.26	0.24	0.26	28,170,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	5,722,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.06	1.1	1.06	1.1	704,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	42	42	41.5	42	209,800
Ionics Inc.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	5,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.95	3.95	3.95	3.95	149,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	240,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.36	1.38	34,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	2,210,000
Paxys Inc.	4.9	4.95	4.9	4.95	342,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.205	0.21	0.205	0.21	160,000
Roxas Holdings, Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	24,000
SM Investments Corp.	220	220	218	220	156,150
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	120,000
Wellex Industries, Inc.	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	1,100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	3.4	3.7	3.4	3.7	20,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.12	1.12	70,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.89	0.89	2,820,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	90,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.44	1.44	780,000
Philippine Racing Club	3	3	3	3	88,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	722,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series J	10	10	10	10	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	4,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	9,000
Far Eastern University	610	610	600	600	210
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.6	2,644,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.225	5,260,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.22	230,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.38	1,610,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.26	1.28	1.26	1.28	429,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.19	0.195	0.19	0.19	2,420,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	80,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	600,000
SM Development Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	29,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.5	7.4	7.5	1,440,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	90,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	40,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	6,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.6	197,000
Benguet Corp. A	8.1	8.1	7.8	7.8	83,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.225	0.23	0.225	0.225	6,470,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.245	16,870,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	17,600,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	2,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	2,500,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.26	1.26	1.22	1.22	4,433,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	165,300
OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	152,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	29,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	70,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.44	320,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.9	3.9	3.85	3.85	112,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	350,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	100,000

CURRENCIES

October 26, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.826378	1.000000	55.3270
Japan	Yen	0.007183	0.008692	0.4809
United Kingdom	Pound	1.474010	1.783700	98.6868
Hongkong	Dollar	0.106566	0.128956	7.1347
Switzerland	Franc	0.647074	0.783024	43.3224
Canada	Dollar	0.703839	0.851716	47.1229
Singapore	Dollar	0.489328	0.592136	32.7611
Australia	Dollar	0.623917	0.755002	41.7720
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.192158	2.652731	146.7676
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.220362	0.266660	14.7535
Brunei	Dollar	0.487884	0.590388	32.6644
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000083	0.000100	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.020250	0.024504	1.3557
UAE	Dirham	0.225000	0.272272	15.0640
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.210100	66.9512
Argentina	Peso	0.277541	0.335852	18.5817
Brazil	Real	0.365703	0.442537	24.4842
Denmark	Kroner	0.134053	0.162217	8.9750
India	Rupee	0.018380	0.022242	1.2306
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.218937	0.264936	14.6581
Mexico	New Peso	0.076020	0.091992	5.0896
New Zealand	Dollar	0.581916	0.704176	38.9599
South Africa	Rand	0.125010	0.151274	8.3695
Korea	Won	0.000783	0.000948	0.0524
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024521	0.029673	1.6417

$3B in OFW . . .

From page B1

consumption and other uses in the economy," Tetangco said.

"That's why in the BOP (balance of payments), we try to capture some of that by assuming there's another 20 percent that is being coursed through non-banks. That's a conservative estimate, because the survey shows it's somewhere between 25-30 percent," he added.

The OFW survey which estimated the leakages was done by the Department of Labor and Employment together with consular offices abroad.

"We're asking banks to come up with products that OFWs can use, for those who don't have the time or inclination to go into business," Tetangco said.

He said the BSP was likewise studying ways to link OFW inflows with microfinance.

"The $10 billion (expected inflow this year) is a big account and we have a lot of people in the countryside that are potential entrepreneurs," Tetangco said.

From a stop-gap measure initiated by the government to curb unemployment in the 1970s, overseas employment has developed into a vital industry generating foreign exchange exceeding foreign investment inflows.

"Looking forward, we see that there's still potential for further expansion in the industry, for a number of reasons. One, there is increasing demand especially from countries whose populations are aging," Tetangco said.

GMA-7 profit up 58% in 9 months

By Clarissa S. Batino

GMA NETWORK INC. REPORTED a net income of more than P700 million in the third quarter, bringing the total for the first nine months to P1.74 billion or 58 percent higher than the P1.09 billion a year ago.

GMA president Felipe Gozon said the network would definitely exceed its P2-billion profit target for the year.

The broadcast firm posted a net profit of about P1.5 billion in 2004.

The network's growing profitability puts it in a stronger position to do an initial public offering in the first quarter of 2006. The plan is to sell 25 to 30 percent of the company and raise about P9 billion.

Prospects are even rosier with the launching in November of Channel 11's QTV or Quality TV, which will be powered by GMA 7. Overseas expansion is also ongoing.

Deutsche Bank and ATR Kim Eng are conducting a due-diligence audit on the company to determine the market value of GMA 7. Gozon said he believed the new audit would place the company's value at more than P30 billion.

"The target is to push through with the IPO by the first quarter. We are still on track," he said.

Gozon said airtime revenue from January to September reached P7.23 billion or 33 percent higher than the P5.45 billion in the same period in 2004.

Airtime numbers, he said, showed that GMA 7 continued to dominate the ratings despite aggressive efforts of ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. to regain its lead.

"We are still very much ahead in the ratings," he said. "And our lead is even increasing rather than decreasing."

GMA 7's total assets went up 21 percent as of end-September to P9.48 billion from P7.85 billion a year ago.

Single Asian . . .

From page B1

investment inflows have contributed to an increase in East Asia's foreign exchange reserves from about $600 billion in 1997 to more than $2 trillion—more than half of global reserves—by July 2005," he said.

Because of this vast amount of reserves, the ADB chief said Asian countries should allow greater exchange rate flexibility, which was a "natural response" to the situation.

He said he was encouraged by the recent moves of the People's Republic of China and Malaysia to shift to a "managed floating exchange rate" in recent months, away from a rigid currency peg which tended to bloat imbalances with trading partners.

Kuroda gave his remarks during yesterday's Governor Jose B. Fernandez Jr. Memorial Lecture at the Peninsula Hotel in Makati City.

Speaking to a broad audience composed of bankers, businessmen, academics and members of the diplomatic community, the ADB president urged leaders of Asian nations to gear their monetary policies toward fending off another financial crisis. In particular, Kuroda urged economic managers to be ready to let their currencies appreciate against the dollar to better reflect economic realities.

"In the undesirable event of [a] sharp exchange rate adjustment in the future reflecting trans-Pacific imbalances, the East Asian currencies will have to be ready to collectively appreciate vis-à-vis the US dollar, while maintaining relative stability among the regional economies, thus minimizing the adjustment cost to individual economies.

Kuroda's recommendation, however, will likely be frowned upon by Asia's economic giants—Japan, China and South Korea—which rely on relatively weak currencies to make their exports more attractive to buyers in the US and Europe.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Thursday, October 27, 2005

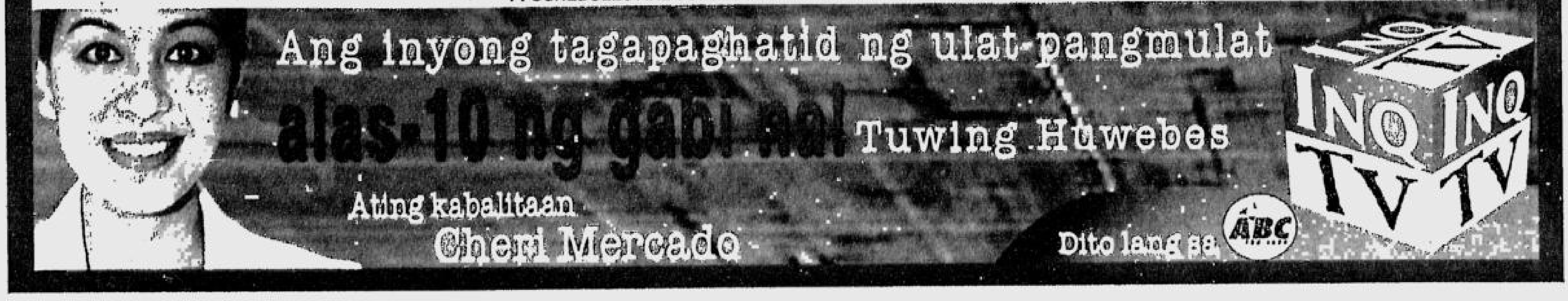
Laura Jean
club tv
Saturday_8pm
feel_the_vibe
ABC

Provided by ClickTheCity.com

For more TV schedules:
1. Visit www.ClickTheCity.com or wap.clickthecity.com.
2. Key in CTC TV and send to 2333 for Globe and to 225 for Smart. PhP2.50 per SMS sent.

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN		Value Vision		New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo				Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Bantay OCW With Susan K	
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Amazing Twins	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Vietnam Rose	Kampanerang Kuba	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Pinoy Big Brother	Maalaala Mo Kaya			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		Barclays EPL		EPL Goals		Sentro	Mumbai Thriller	S.O.S		Wala Yan Sa Lolo Ko		Big News	Rockstar: Inxs	Inq TV		ESPN Golf
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Hoteller	12 Kingdoms	Slam Dunk	All For Love		24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Darna	Encantadia	Sugo	Sassy Girl	Magpakailanman			Saksi
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Global Battle Of The Bands	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	WWE Smackdown		The Ultimate Fighter		Salem's Lot		Newswatch Now	Video Hit Parade	Kasangga Mo Ang Langit	Police Hour
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Japan Video Topics		ME TV		Sea Games Special		King Of Adventure	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop						Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Music Video		Shepards Voice	
Studio 23								Batman Beyond	Pinoy Big Brother	Wazzup Wazzup	Birds Of Prey	Alias		Desperate Housewives		News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me
MTV Philippines	MTV Alert	MTV Cribs	That MTV Chart Show		Pimp My Ride	Pop Inc		MTV Hits				MTV Hits	Get Spotted	TRL		Punk'D	Brand New	MTV Hits	VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX		Star MYX	MYXILOG	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Presents		Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
ESPN		Pool/Snooker World Pool Master '05		Goals!	MLB World Series '05							Sportscenter Asia	MLB World Series '05						
Solar Sports			WTA 2005				World Champ '05 Beach Volleyball					Sports Desk	Sports Desk	US 9-Ball Open 2005				NBA TV Daily	Sports Desk
Sports Plus				This Is The PGA Tour		Celebrity Poker Tournament				Raceworld		NFL 2005						NASCAR Subway 500 Martinsville	
Cinemax				Waterland (4:15PM)			[illegible] Blunt Instrument				I Accuse			The Hitcher II: I've Been Waiting			Ordinary Decent Criminal		
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Strong Medicine		HCA The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	The Nanny	Mysterious Way		Strong Medicine		The Frostivar			Judging Amy (10:35PM)		Mysterious Way
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Ad Attack/Untalkative Bunny	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Lizzie Maguire		Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Discovery Channel		Hour Asia		Hour China		Wild Discovery		Beyond The Bermuda Triangle		Extreme Machines		IBM Innovation Hour		Wild Science		Deadliest Season In The World		Power Zone	
National Geographic		Megastructures		Marine Machines		Red Space		Top 5		Wow!		About Asia		Catastrophe The Super Twisters/ Nat'l Geographic Specials		Megastructures		Marine Machines	
Cartoon Network	Yogi Bear Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	What's New Scooby Doo?	Johnny Bravo	Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans	SD Gundam Force	Machine Robo-Rescue	The Looney Tunes Show		Courage The Cowardly Dog	What's New Scooby Doo?	Mike, Lu & Og	Time Squad	Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues/ What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot/ Right On Top	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Naturally Sadie	Sabrina, The Teenage Witch	Drake & Josh	Cow At The Moo-vies	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	ChalkZone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Are You Afraid of the Dark?
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	The Fix	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Molto Mario	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Tyler's Ultimate	E! News Weekend		Good Finds	Life & Style		E! True Hollywood Story		Road & Track	Back To Basics
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	Scrubs	8 Simple Rules	The Drew Carey Show	Less Than Perfect	The Apprentice		Friends	Scrubs
AXN		CSI: Miami (Season 3)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 6)		The Amazing Race Family Edition		Beastmaster		Pensacola (Season III)		Gamemax	Hollywood's Greatest Stunts	24		24		The Shield	
JackTV	Dr. Katz	Just For Laughs (Gags)	Beat The Geeks					Cinematech	Family Guy	Mad TV		Reno 911	Crank Yankers	South Park	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Hip Hop Nation	Ride With Funk Master Flex	WWE Velocity	
ETC		GBB	Knock First	1 Hr Edited Version Of Today Show		Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Good Morning Miami	Committed	American Dreams		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO				Abuse Of Power (3:50PM)			Blue Crush				The Big Bounce			Harry Potter And The Prisoner Of Azkaban					I'll Be There (11:20PM)
Star Movies			Levity (3:20 PM)			Dying Young				Love Actually (6:50 PM)				Swimming Upstream			Torn Apart (10:45PM)		
Cinema One		Yakapin Mo Ako Lalaking Matapang				Hindi Mo Ako Kayang Tapakan				Aishite Imasu				Dyesebel				Hiwaga Sa Balete Drive	
EWTN	St. Faustina: Divine Mercy In Our Souls	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Council Of Faith	Faith Factory D	Image Of God	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Gospel Of Life In Health Care	Lord, Have Mercy	EWTN Live With Father Mitch Pacwa		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9:15 PM)	Suffering Of The God	Angels Of God	Your Vocation: God's Call In Your Life	The Journey Home	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.



Subic-Kaohsiung corridor planned

By Ronnel W. Domingo

TAIPEI—THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE Philippines and Taiwan are in talks on developing a growth corridor that will link the economic zones of Subic and Kaohsiung as a step toward a possible free trade pact.

Antonio I. Basilio, resident representative at the Manila Economic and Cultural Office here, said the idea was to put up a corridor of efficient and seamless manufacturing zone where people from both shores would be free to move.

"Counterpart teams are still consulting on how to realize this economic corridor, but we hope we can have some preliminary agreements soon," Basilio said.

The Meco official said key components for such a corridor could include entry visas that were valid for longer than the usual 14 days and less documentary requirements for import-export shipments from both shores.

Taiwan Minister of Economic Affairs Ho Mei-yueh said in an interview that a Subic-Kaohsuing corridor made a lot of sense because the two areas were a mere hour-long flight away from each other.

The Kaohsiung Export Processing Zone, located in Taiwan's largest industrial area and in the southern port city of the same name, is touted as the world first ecozone.

"An RP-Taiwan FTA may take time but it could start with an ecozone corridor agreement," Ho said. "This is (very doable) and is not against the regulations of the World Trade Organization."

Ho said Taiwan hoped an agreement could be finalized as soon as possible and that steps to put up the corridor could start within the year.

Tseng Sheng-bao, director general of Taiwan's Export Processing Zone Administration, said Taiwanese firms wanted assurance to their access to the Philippine market; easy application process of Kaohsiung locators who want to invest in Subic; and smooth flow of workers and corporate officials between the zones.

"For example, the Philippine government might be persuaded to regard goods made by Taiwanese firms in Subic—which has only 25 percent local input—as a local product and thus can be sold easily in the market," Tseng said.

Another proposal from Taiwan was for workers and business officials to be able to shuttle between Kaohsiung and Subic without having to secure visas.

In an interview last September, Basilio said that under the proposal, businesses operating in Subic and Kaohsiung would enjoy incentives that are available in all the three zones.

Globe to refinance $300M in debts

By Clarissa S. Batino

GLOBE TELECOM INC. IS TALKING with banks on the possible refinancing of between $100 million and $300 million in debts before the end of this year.

Globe chief financial officer Delfin Gonzalez confirmed that the telecom firm was studying loan offers of some banks. Loan proposals are dollar- and peso-denominated.

He declined to say how much of its existing debts the company was planning to refinance but said it could be substantial.

Negotiations with creditors are ongoing, he said.

Globe has about $900 million in outstanding debts, of which $160 million is maturing this year and $168 million falling due in 2006.

The joint venture of Ayala Corp. and Singapore Telecom is taking advantage of a better credit rating from Moody's Investors Service to lighten its debt load.

In July, Moody's upgraded Globe's foreign currency debt rating by a notch to Ba2 from Ba3.

The New York-based debt-watcher affirmed Globe's local currency rating at an investment grade level of Baa3 with a positive outlook.

Prepaying debts would allow the telcos with huge dollar obligations to save on interests, speed up its debt reduction program, and minimize currency risks.

SMIC to issue P5B worth of debt notes

SM INVESTMENTS CORP. (SMIC), THE flagship company of tycoon Henry Sy Sr., inked an agreement with a consortium of five banks for the issuance of P5 billion worth of debt notes this month.

Sources said the notes, to be issued on Oct. 28, would be used to refinance a bridge loan used by the Sy group to purchase shares in Equitable PCI Bank and San Miguel Corp., and to fund working capital.

The notes will mature in five and seven years, and will carry a combination of fixed and floating interest rates.

BDO Capital and Investments Corp., SMIC's sister firm, is the issue manager and sole book runner. Lead managers for the issue also include BPI Capital Corp., Citicorp Capital Philippines Inc., First Metro Investment Corp. and ING Bank N.V., Manila branch.

SMIC chief financial officer Jose Sio said in an interview that the debt issue was fully underwritten by investment banks. Although the initial feedback from qualified investors was strong, Sio said SMIC would not likely raise the size of the issue.

SM Investments has interests in retail, mall, property development, leisure and banking. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

National Power Corporation
Republic of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of Imported Steaming Coal to Sual and Pagbilao CFTPP Batch I, CY2006

1. The National Power Corporation now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the above supply.
2. It intends to apply the sum as shown below being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC), inclusive of maximum loading tolerance:

Batch I Schedule-Plant	Volume, MT	Approved Budget for the Contract Inclusive of Maximum Loading Tolerance, Php	Bidding Date, Venue and Time
1A - SCFTPP (Spot/Regular)	5x65,000 +/-7%	1,324,232,000.00	Dec. 5, 2005, Pahiyas - 9:30 AM
1B - SCFTPP (3-Yrs. Long Term)	4x65,000 +/-7%/yr.	1,059,385,600.00 (1st Yr.)	Dec. 5, 2005, Pahiyas - 9:30 AM
2A - PCFTPP (Spot/Performance)	5x65,000 +/-10%	1,201,200,000.00	Dec. 6, 2005, Pahiyas - 9:30 AM
2B - PCFTPP (Spot/Blending Low Sulfur)	5x65,000 +/-10%	1,201,200,000.00	Dec. 6, 2005, Pahiyas - 9:30 AM

Note: This Batch I, Schedule cancels the previous invitation for the same supply published on October 12 & October 15, 2005.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the IRR-Part A of RA 9184, and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, Organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (RA 5183). Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased from BCSD upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P20,000.00 per mine source per schedule, either in cash or manager's check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. Pre-Bid Conference shall be on Nov. 22, 2005, 9:00 a.m. at Pahiyas Function Room, NPC, Diliman, q.c.
6. Bidders are encouraged to submit Eligibility Documents on or before Nov. 25, 2005 for evaluation and issuance of Class A Certification.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at designated venue on the bidding dates. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and amount stated in the Tender Document. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. NPC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidders. Any inquiry regarding the above invitation shall be addressed to the undersigned.
9. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Bids and Contracts Services Department (BCSD), NPC Building, Diliman, Quezon City at Tel. No. 922-1622 or visit NPC (www.napocor.gov.ph) and DBM (www.procurementservice.net.com) websites.

(Sgd.) SILVANO C. ZANORIA
Sr. Vice President and Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Oct. 27 & Nov. 3, 2005)

PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The **Privatization and Management Office (PMO)**, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites Security Agencies to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder projects for a contract duration of two (2) years:

Description	No. of Guards	Approved Budget (P59,868,388.80 - For 2 years)
Hiring of Security Services for NCR	38	14,737,108.80
Hiring of Security Services for Luzon	64	18,411,600.00
Hiring of Security Services for Visayas	22	5,896,920.00
Hiring of Security Services for Mindanao	81	20,822,760.00
	205	

2. Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding and have key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or under purchase) available for the execution of the project. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest eligible bidders shall be conducted.
3. All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).
4. Bid Documents will be available starting **October 14, 2005** from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the 4th Floor PMO-BAC Secretariat upon payment of a non-refundable amount of:
   NCR P3,700.00 LUZON P4,600.00 VISAYAS P1,500.00 MINDANAO P5,200.00
5. The PMO-BAC will conduct its **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested bidders on **October 28, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.**, 6th Floor Privatization and Management Office, 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.
6. **Deadline for Submission of Bids/Eligibility Requirements and Bid Opening** shall be on **November 10, 2005** at the 6th floor, Privatization and Management Office, 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City with the following schedules:
   VISAYAS 9:00 a.m. MINDANAO 11:00 a.m. LUZON 1:00 p.m. NCR 3:00 p.m.
   Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who choose to attend. All bids must be accompanied by a **Bid Security in any of the forms** listed on the table below. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Form of Bid Security	Region	% of ABC	Corresponding Amt.
Certified check, cashier's check or manager's check; *OR*	NCR Luzon Visayas Mindanao	1%	147,371.09 184,116.00 58,969.20 208,227.60
Bank guarantee; *OR*	NCR Luzon Visayas Mindanao	1 1/2%	221,056.63 276,174.00 88,453.80 312,341.40
Surety Bond	NCR Luzon Visayas Mindanao	2 1/2%	368,427.72 460,290.00 147,423.00 520,569.00

7. The PMO-BAC assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.
8. Moreover, the **PMO-BAC reserves its right to reject any or all bid proposals, waive any formality in the bid requirements, declare the bidding a failure without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders, or award the contract to the bidder whose offer is the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bid**, and most advantageous to the Government.

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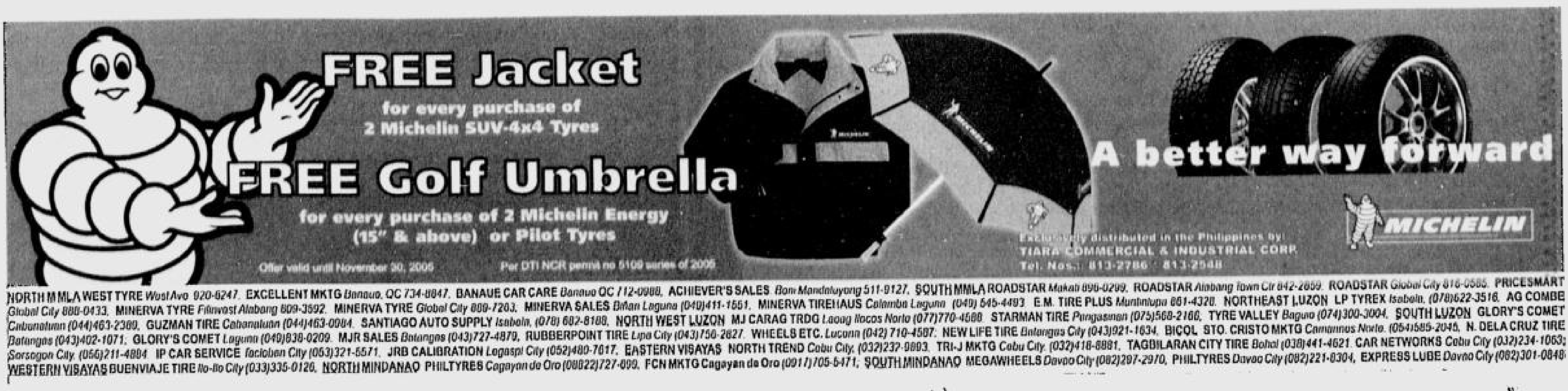
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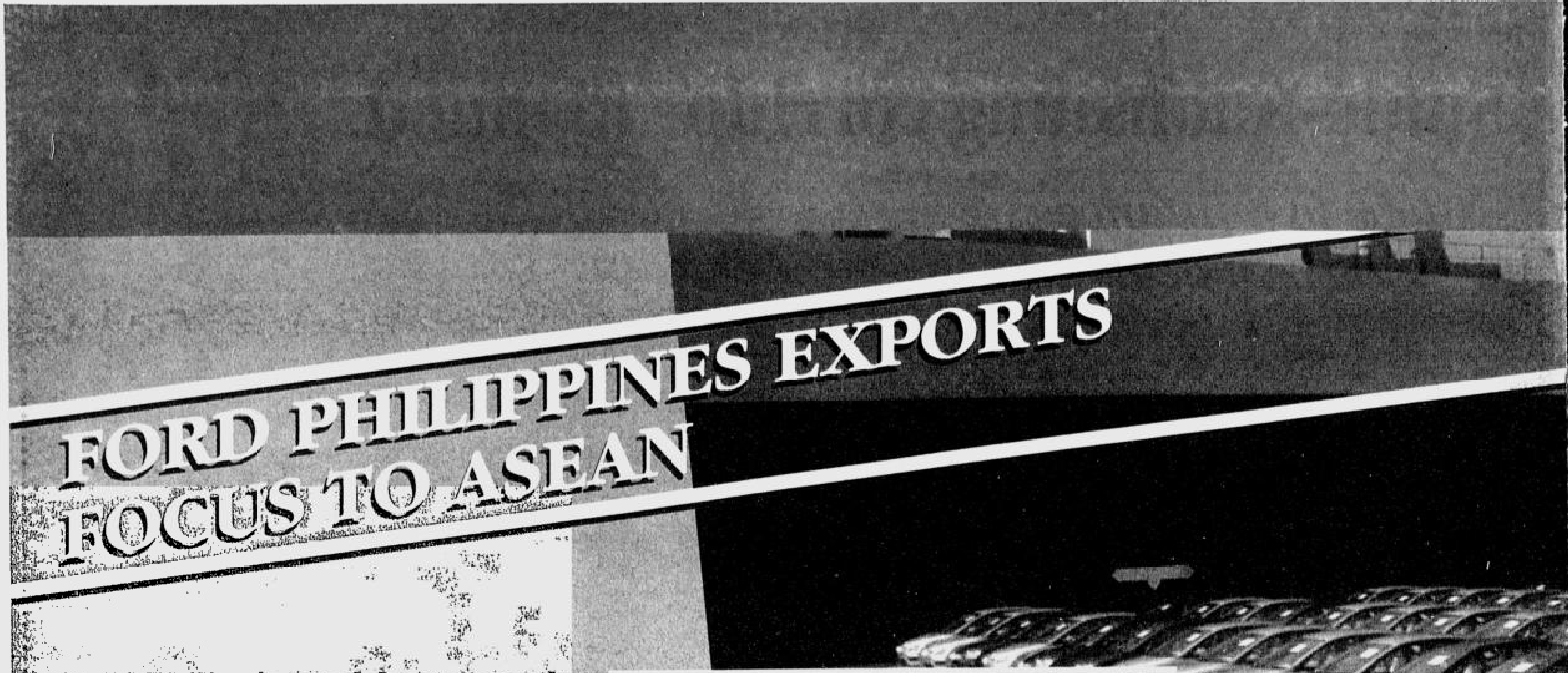
FORD PHILIPPINES EXPORTS FOCUS TO ASEAN



Ford Philippines celebrates another milestone in its export program with the export of the all-new Ford Focus to the markets of Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia.

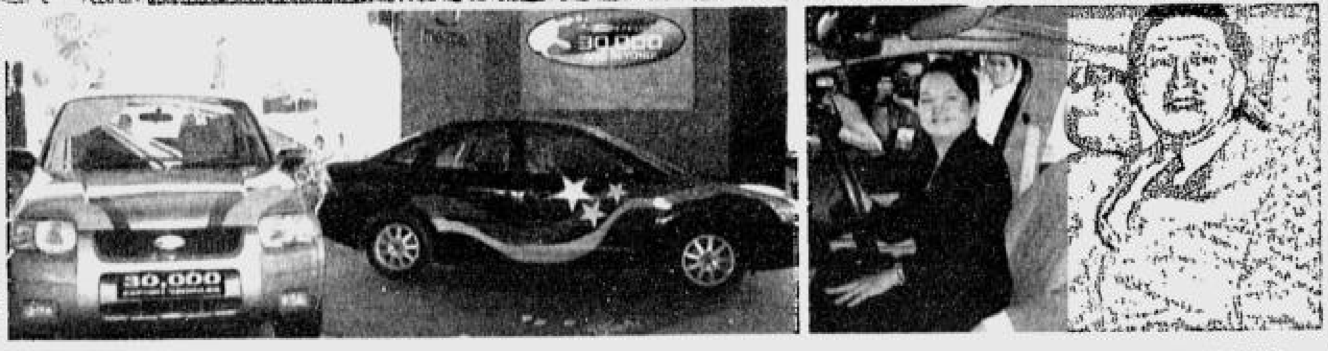
The all-new Ford Focus joins the elite line of Ford vehicles, namely, Ford Escape, Mazda Tribute and Mazda3, already being exported to the ASEAN region. These vehicles, with the addition of the Ford Focus, are being produced at the state-of-the-art US$250 million Ford Philippines plant in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

The Ford Focus represents the full delivery of the commitment of Ford's Chairman and CEO Bill Ford in October 2003, when he pledged to the Philippine government an infusion of an additional US$50 million to bring the Sta. Rosa plant to full capacity and firmly establish it as a regional export hub via the New Car Program.

Heralded as the *"new car of choice"* and *"must-have car of the year,"* the Philippine-made Focus is expected to take Ford's export program to greater heights. The Ford Focus inherits Ford's DNA—Genuine, Progressive and Smart—that are the hallmarks of Ford's car heritage. As the first and only car to secure the much-coveted Car of the Year in both Europe and North America, the Ford Focus has to date, received over 80 international awards. The future looks promising that the Ford Focus will continue its winning streak in the ASEAN region via the Ford Philippines export program.

"This major breakthrough in the Philippine automotive industry undoubtedly creates more business opportunities for our suppliers and highlights the technical competence of the Filipino workers," said Henry Co, President of Ford Group Philippines. *"Through the export of the Ford Focus, the country's competitiveness is once again showcased,"* Co added.

Bill Ford, Chairman and CEO of Ford Motor Company, pledged in October 2003 to build the Philippines as an export hub in the ASEAN region.



Unveiling of the Ford Focus and the 30,000th export milestone in April 2005. To date, cumulative exports has reached 34,550 vehicles valued at US$457 million.

The Ford Export Program – A First in the Philippine Automotive Industry

In just three years from its launch, the Ford Philippines Export Program has indeed marked various milestones, starting off with the first vehicle export to Thailand and Indonesia under the ASEAN Industrial Cooperation scheme in 2002.

Ford Philippines expanded the reach of its Export Program in 2004 when it began vehicle exports to Singapore and Malaysia, introduced Mazda-branded vehicles to its export markets and launched CKD shipments to Vietnam.

In April 2005, the Ford Philippines Export Program marked another milestone when it reached its 30,000th unit for export and officially unveiled the all-new Ford Focus to no less than Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Ford Philippines remains to be the first and only volume exporter of vehicles in the Philippine automotive industry. As of October 2005, cumulative vehicle exports has reached 34,550 units valued at US$ 457 million.

Generating More Jobs for Filipinos

To prepare for the launch of the Focus, Ford Philippines hired an additional 487 workers to support the start of its second shift operations last September 12, 2005. With the new hires, Ford Philippines' employee headcount reached 1,257. The two-shift operations doubles the production capacity of the Ford Sta. Rosa plant from 18,000 vehicles to 36,000 vehicles annually, further providing opportunities for export market expansion.

It is estimated that Ford's manufacturing initiatives in the country generates a total of 10,000 workers through its supply chain of parts makers that supply Ford's Philippine and global requirements.

"Ford's exports from the country supports the growth of the auto parts industry by providing thousands of job opportunities for our highly skilled Filipino workers. The continued growth of its export program is a manifestation that Filipino workers can confidently implement best practices in manufacturing and quality management systems, thus produce products that meet stringent standards of international markets," said Mr. Feliciano L. Torres, Chairman of the Motor Vehicle Parts Manufacturers Association of the Phils. (MVPMAP) and President of Yazaki-Torres.

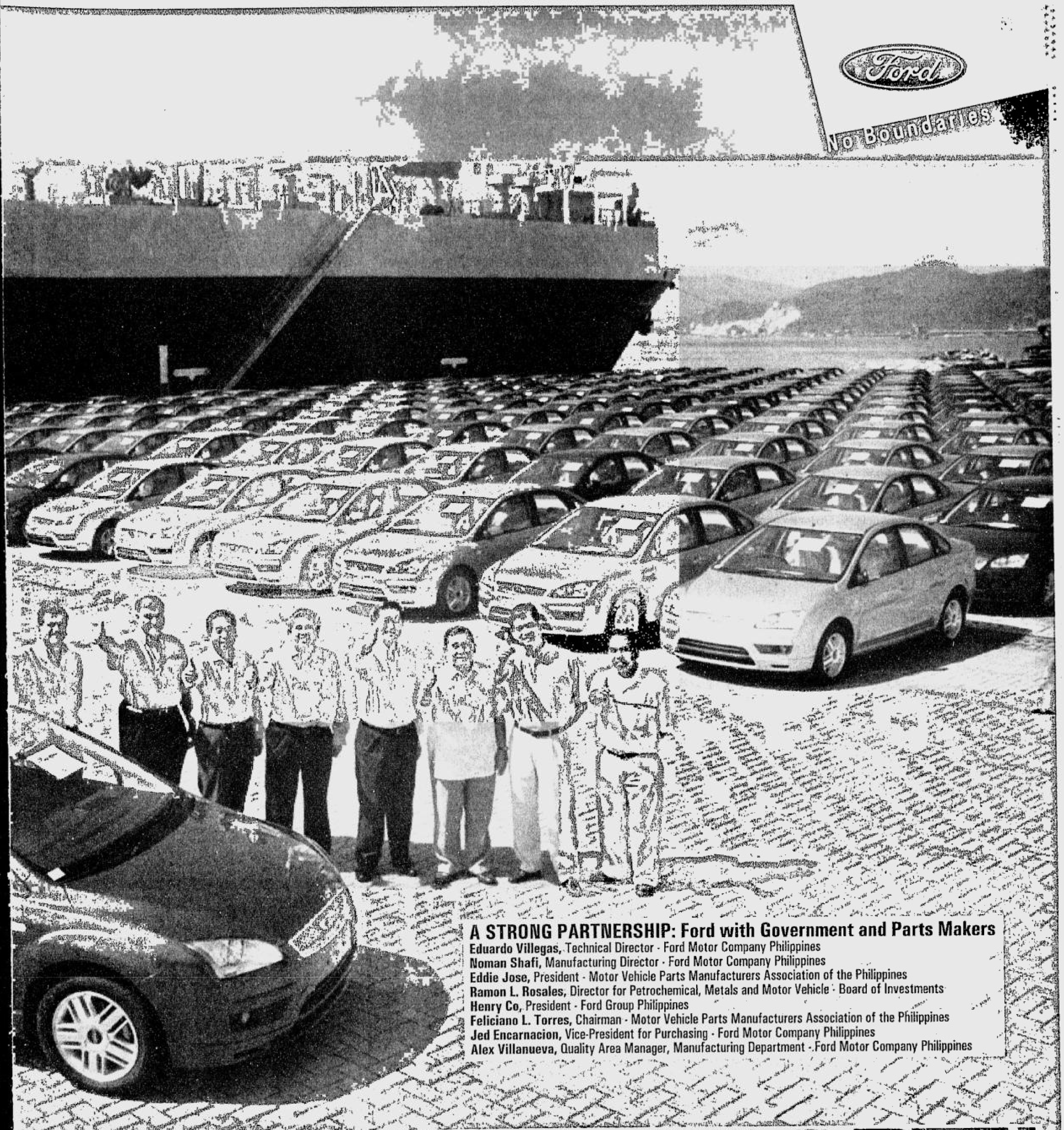
Exports Spur Growth of RP's Parts Industry

The success of Ford's Export Program is not enjoyed by Ford alone, as the benefits are also cascaded to the parts manufacturing industry. The Ford Export Program has opened the door for Philippine parts manufacturers to supply locally-made parts to the ASEAN region. Ford Philippines currently works with 61 parts makers to procure 1,500 parts with annualized purchases amounting to about US$43 million (P2.4 billion). Additionally, Ford as a whole will purchase about US$420 million (P23 billion) in local parts for use in its products in North America, Europe and Japan. In fact in 2004, Ford contributed 22% of total Philippine industry exports as its combined vehicle and parts exports value hit the US$ 455 million mark.

"The Ford export program has become a vehicle for various local parts makers to venture into exports. Through close collaboration with Ford, Filipino-owned parts manufacturing companies like Valerie Products Manufacturing, Inc. (VPMI) are given assistance in expanding their export business and workforce. Overall, this has supported the development of a competitive parts industry," said Mr. Eddie Jose, President of MVPMAP and President of VPMI.

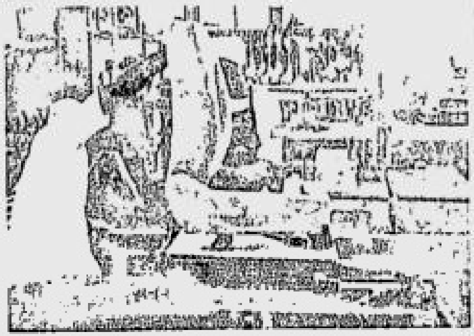
The Focus program has also promoted tie-ups of European suppliers with Philippine suppliers to facilitate technology transfer. Also on track is the Ford S1 supplier certification program that builds capabilities of Philippine parts makers to export directly to Ford affiliates. Examples are Philippine Carpet and Laguna Automotive Manufacturing Corp., which now directly supply to export markets such as Ford Taiwan and South Africa.

No Boundaries

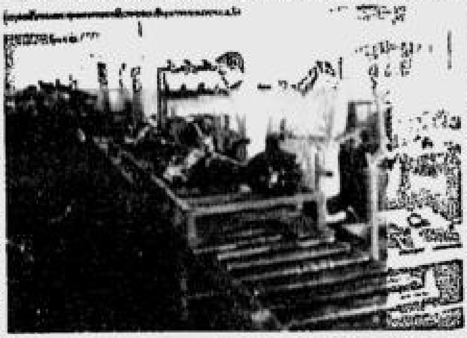


A STRONG PARTNERSHIP: Ford with Government and Parts Makers
Eduardo Villegas, Technical Director - Ford Motor Company Philippines
Noman Shafi, Manufacturing Director - Ford Motor Company Philippines
Eddie Jose, President - Motor Vehicle Parts Manufacturers Association of the Philippines
Ramon L. Rosales, Director for Petrochemical, Metals and Motor Vehicle - Board of Investments
Henry Co, President - Ford Group Philippines
Feliciano L. Torres, Chairman - Motor Vehicle Parts Manufacturers Association of the Philippines
Jed Encarnacion, Vice-President for Purchasing - Ford Motor Company Philippines
Alex Villanueva, Quality Area Manager, Manufacturing Department - Ford Motor Company Philippines

Jobs for Filipinos in the provinces: Yazaki-Torres supplies wiring harnesses to Ford USA, Europe and Asia. Its two (2) plants in Laguna and Batangas employ a total of 10,000 people.



Technology tie-ups: TS Tech Trim Phils. tied-up with Johnson Controls of Europe to manufacture Focus car seat assemblies.



Supporting Filipino parts makers: Valerio Products Manufacturing, Inc., a Filipino-owned company manufacturing cross-member assemblies, is assisted by Ford in expanding its business.

Ford's S1 Supplier Export Accreditation Program: Laguna Automotive Manufacturing Corp. supplies alternators and starters not only to Ford Philippines but also to Ford South Africa and Taiwan.

Ford Recognizes Government Support

The success of Ford's export program would have not been possible without the support of the government.

The implementation of the Automotive Export Program by the Board of Investments has encouraged Ford Philippines to venture into the much larger and competitive regional market.

"Ford's Export Program has proven that Philippine-made vehicles can compete in the global market, when given the right support by government. We hope that with the success of Ford's Export Program, other industry players would be confident enough to make the Philippines pursuant to the government's Motor Vehicle Development Program, its vehicle export manufacturing hub in the region," said Elmer Hernandez, Department of Trade and Industry Undersecretary and Board of Investments Managing Head.

The ease of operations in an industrial processing zone under PEZA is also a major contributing factor that helped Ford's Export Program flourish.

"We are happy to be of assistance to Ford's Vehicle Export Program. PEZA is always mindful of the requirements of its locators and values their need to operate in a hassle-free business environment," says Atty. Lilia De Lima, Director General of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority.

Looking Ahead

Ford is proud that in a few short years, the company has made great strides towards doing its part in elevating the status of the Philippine automotive industry. With the delivery of the all-new Ford Focus, Ford Philippines' Export Program takes a step further and is well on its way to being a formidable player in the region's automotive industry.

The all-new Ford Focus is a testament of Ford's global expertise that has made a mark in the automotive landscape of the US and Europe, and is now beginning to make waves in the ASEAN region.

The Focus boasts of three important brand pillars: European styling, or a beautiful design that sets it apart from its competitors; German engineering, which translates to refined comfort and quality with extensive safety measures that give drivers and passengers real peace of mind; and superior driving dynamics that offers legendary road holding and cornering ability that appeals to the taste and needs of Asian drivers.

Banking on the countless success it has received in various parts of the globe, the future looks promising that the Ford Focus and its best-selling streak will continue in Asia.

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TransCo
Republic of the Philippines
National Transmission Corporation

Section I. Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Supply and Delivery of Various Information and Communication Technology Equipment

[Reference No.: PB051006-EL0098]

1. The *National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region (TRANSCO-HO)* through the *CY2005 Corporate Budget approved by the TRANSCO Board* intends to apply the sum of *Php 7,783,000.00* being the Total Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **Supply and Delivery of Various Information and Communication Technology Equipment.** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The *TRANSCO-HO* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *Various ICTs*, Delivery of the GOODS is required as listed below. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part-A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders, starting October 27, 2005 to November 21, 2005 from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00P.M. at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of *One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00)*. The method of payment will be CASH. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. The *TRANSCO-HO* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on November 11, 2005 at 3:30 P.M at same address below.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 2:00 P.M. of November 24, 2005. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following form and amount:

Form of Security	Amount
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	1% of ABC
2. Bank guarantee	1.5% of ABC
3. Surety Bond	2.5% of ABC
4. Foreign government guarantee	100% of ABC

or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

7. Bid opening shall be on November 24, 2005 / 2:00 P.M. at the *Admin Conference Rm same address below.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The *National Transmission Corporation* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region
Mr. Armando N. Ochoa, BAC Chairman
MMD Office, G/F TransCo Main Bldg.
Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel No. (632) 9812235 / Fax No. (632) 9228432
Website : www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) ARMANDO N. OCHOA
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-Oct. 27, 2005)

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1% w/out taking car 7262780

1.5% ABC Car Line 5221001

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% easy carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/o taking Car 7228042-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of ate RODOLFO EXCONDE CARRILLO was settled extra-judicially by way of a Deed of Extrajudicial Settlement executed in Makati City on October 8, 2005 by his heirs. The Deed has been acknowledged before Aris L. Gulapa a Notary Public in and and for Makati City on October 8, 2005 and entered in his notarial register as Doc No. 353 Page No. 72 Book No. I Series of 2005.
PDI-Oct. 13, 20 & 27, 2005

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Francisco S. Que has been extrajudicially settled by their legal heir as per Doc. 056, Page 91, Book 09, Series 2005 of Notary Public Atty. Elmer A. Galicia of Mandaluyong (PDI-Oct. 13, 20, & 27, 2005)

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Republic of the Philippines
Mindanao Polytechnic State College
C. M. Recto Avenue, Lapasan, 9000 Cagayan de Oro City
Tel Nos. (08822) 72-60-65 / (088) 856-1738 / 856-1739 Telefax (088) 856-4696

NOTICE OF SEARCH AND CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Board of Trustees of the Mindanao Polytechnic State College formally and publicly announces that the Search for Presidency of the MINDANAO POLYTECHNIC STATE COLLEGE is now open. Interested applicants and/or nominees are invited to send their formal applications to the Search Committee chaired by Dr. Ester A. Garcia.

MINIMUM QUALIFIACATIONS:

- Must be a Filipino citizen
- Preferably a holder of a doctorate degree
- Preferably between 40 to 60 years old but not more than 65 at the time of application.
- Must be morally upright
- With recognized leadership in his/her profession in the academe of industry
- With at least five (5) years of managerial/administrative experience

In addition to the above-mentioned qualifications, the applicants should make a full disclosure of all administrative, criminal, and/or civil case filed in any court in the Philippines and are required to submit the following clearances:

- National Bureau of Investigation
- Sandiganbayan
- Civil Service Commission and/or Certificate of No Pending Administrative case issued by the Administrative Officer of present employer
- Previous employer

Formal application addressed to the Search Committee should be accompanied with:

- Detailed curriculum vitae and certified supporting documents
- Proposed vision, mission and thrusts of the College
- Results of neuro-psychiatric examination conducted by any government physician or any accredited health institution
- Medical Certificate from a government physician

Interested applicants and/or those nominated for the position are requested to submit six (6) sets of their formal application and certified supporting documents on or before 29 November 2005 to:

MR. MARLON N. FABRICANTE
Executive Assistant IV
Office of Commissioner S.M. OCAMPO, JR.
CHED, 5/f, DAP Bldg., San Miguel Ave.
Ortigas Center, PASIG CITY
Tel. No. (02) 636-1990
Telefax No. (02) 636-1693

OR

MS. GILDA M. MAQUILING
College and Board Secretary Des.
Mindanao Polytechnic State College
C.M. Recto Avenue, Lapasan
9000 Cagayan de Oro City
Tel No. (088) 856-1738
Telefax (088) 856-4696

(PDI-Oct 27, 28 & 30, 2005)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

Date: October 27, 2005

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Construction and Installation of 50 MVA Auto-Transformer and Its Associated Equipment for Daraga Substation (Sp05.DGSS.LI-0043)

Installation and/or erecting high voltage equipment such as 50 MVA Power Transformer including accessories; 230 & 69 kV Power Circuit Breakers, its associated Disconnect Switches and Instrument Transformers including metering, control, protection; and construction of warehouse.
The Project is located at Barangay Peñafrancia, Daraga, Albay in Bicol Region.

1. The National Transmission Corporation (TransCo), through the Annual Corporate Budget for the contract approved by the governing board, intends to apply the sum of Php 21,328,713.00 being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Construction and Installation of 50 MVA Auto-Transformer and its Associated Equipment for Daraga Substation (Sp05.DGSS.LI-0043). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. TransCo now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for furnishing labor, materials, equipment (except materials specified to be furnished by TransCo) supplies, tools and technical services including hauling, delivery and installing of high voltage substation equipment and other works to complete the project. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs on or before the date and time at the address given below, and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom upon payment of non-refundable fee, also stated below. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents stated below. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents. PCAB License and Registration Particular required should be as follows:

License Particular	at least Category "B", SP-Electrical Works
Registration Particular	at least "Medium A", SP-Electrical Works

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five pecent (75%) interest or outstanding caprial stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from TransCo and inspect the Bidding Documents at the BCMD at the address given below.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee stated below. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative starting from the schedule specified below.
6. TransCo will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on the schedule stated below.
7. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before the schedule of submission and opening specified below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any form and in amount stated in the Bidding Documents or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. The Contract shall complete the works within One Hundred Fifty (150) calendar days counted from the effective date stated in the Notice to Proceed.
9. TransCo reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

	Activity	Date/Time	Venue
a	Issuance of Eligibility Documents	Starting October 27, 2005, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	BCMD office address below
b	Submission & Opening of Eligibility Documents	November 14, 2005, 9:00 AM	De La Paz Function Room Training Center Bldg., TransCo, Diliman, Quezon City
c	Issuance of Bidding Documents	Starting November 28, 2005, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	BCMD office address below
d	Pre-bid Conference	December 5, 2005, 1:30 PM	BCMD office address below
e	Bid Submission & Opening	December 16, 2005, 9:00 AM	BCMD office address below
Cost of Eligibility Documents per copy			P 800.00
Cost of Bidding Documents per copy			P 7,000.00

Mr. JOSE MARI M. ILAGAN
Manager, Bids and Contracts Management Department (BCMD)
Ground Floor, TransCo Main Building, Power Center
Quezon Avenue corner Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City 1104
Telephone Nos.: 981-2212; 981-2213; Facsimile No.: 921-2308
Email Address jmilagan@transco.ph
Website. www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) GUILLERMO R. REDOBLADO
VP-Luzon Operation & Maintenance
& Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI--Oct. 27 & Nov. 7, 2005)

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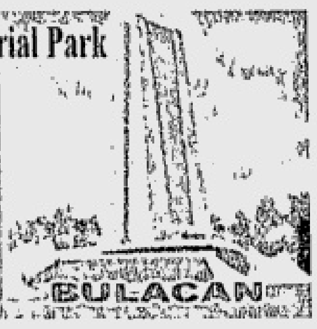

OBITUARIES

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Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

"I am the way,
the truth
and
the life. No
one comes to
the Father
except
through Me."
John 14:6

Our Dearly Beloved

Exuperancia F. Ronquillo

Peacefully joined her Creator on October 25, 2005

Her loving husband **Pablo L.R. Ronquillo**, brothers, **Fr. Ruperto D. Fuentes** (+), **Fr. Ramon D. Fuentes** (+), **Edilberto D. Fuentes** (+) sisters, **Filomena F. Catalan** (+), **Consejo D. Fuentes** (HJ) (+) sister-in-law **Lilia D. Fuentes**, nephews, nieces, grandchildren and great grandchildren request the pious readers to join them in praying for her eternal happiness in heaven.

Her remains lie in state at Don Bosco Parish Funeral Chapel, Makati City, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on Friday, October 28, 2005 after the 8:00 AM Mass at the Manila Memorial Park.

"I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die: and those who live and believe in me will never die."

Dra. Josefa Talavera Bolong

The Grand Matriarch of the Bolong Clan

of San Fernando City, La Union

peacefully joined Her Creator
on October 25, 2005 at the age of 85.

Her loving husband, Dr. Daniel S. Bolong, Sr.; children Michael, Ernie, Danny, Tessie, David and Estela; brothers and sisters, in-laws, nephews and nieces, grandchildren and great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to offer prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains now lie in state at the Joces Funeral Chapel, Diversion Road, Brgy. Biday, San Fernando City, La Union.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 29, 2005
at the Forest Lake Memorial Park (formerly Vista del Cielo),
San Juan, La Union after the 2pm Mass
at St. William the Hermit Cathedral.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate;
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

HENRIETTA "NENE" GOLEZ-AZORES

(March 25, 1945 – October 25, 2005)
has peacefully joined our Lord

Her family **Nonoy, Paul & Sheila & Baby Josh, Nas & Cez, Di & Baby Adrian**; parents **Salvador** (†) and **Dolores Solis Golez**; brothers & sister **Rollo Golez, Amelita Golez-Simon, Ferdinand Golez** and **Elias Golez**, in-laws, nieces, nephews and relatives are requesting for prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains are in Chapel-C La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment to be announced later.

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Topics include are Gender Marketing, The Profile of the Metrosexuals, How to Communicate with the Different Genders, Market Segments, STP, Latest Trends in Marketing, Hybrid Consumers, Marketing Convergence; Marketing to the NGO's and Advertising Secrets.

This major, not-to-miss marketing event is slated on Nov. 11, 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Galleria.

The event is organized by Porter and Miles Inc., a premier training company on business, management, marketing, sales and human resource development, with office address at Suite 2502-C Tektite Tower East, Ortigas Center. Call Mercy at 638-7719 / 20 for more information / reservation.

Sponsors for the High-Impact Marketing include the Philippine Daily Inquirer — Job Market, Business World, Daily Business Mirror, Trabaho.com, JobsDB, JobStreet, Holiday Inn, New Synergy Garments, UKDERM Pharma, Business Week and APCEI.

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Leyte
Municipality of Matalom

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Local Government Unit of Matalom has availed a loan from Japan Bank for International Cooperation/ Land Bank of the Philippines through LGU Support Credit Program (SCP).

The Local Government Unit of Matalom, Leyte through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract : Construction for the Development & Expansion of Municipal Waterworks System
Location : Matalom, Leyte
Brief Description : Construction of Spring Box & Transmission Pipelines
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : P 9,575,610.33
Contract Duration : 180 Calendar Days

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities as follows:

BAC Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Eligibility Forms and Bidding Documents	October 27- November 24, 2005
2. Pre-Bid Conference	November 14, 2005 2:00 P.M. at SB Session Hall
3. Receipt and Opening of bids	November 25, 2005 10:00 A.M. at SB Session Hall

All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following form:

Form of Security	*Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid*
1. Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check	One Percent (1%)
2. Bank Guarantee	One and a Half Percent (1½)
3. Surety Bond (GSIS)	Two and a Half Percent (2½)

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents to Bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P 12,000.00 to the Cashier of LGU- Matalom.

The Local Government of Matalom, Leyte assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

(Sgd.) ENGR. ANASTACIO C. POL
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Oct. 21 & 27, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
General Santos City

INVITATION TO ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The City Government of General Santos hereby invites interested bidders/suppliers registered by the G-EPS and accredited supplier of General Santos City for Eligibility and to Bid for the following projects/proposals.

BID NUMBER	PARTICULARS	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
5CB-GSC-127	PURCHASE OF VARIOUS MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS	P497,000.00 (2005 SB #3)
5CB-GSC-128	PURCHASE OF GARBAGE BINS	P2,500,000.00 (2004 Annual Budget)
5CB-GSC-129	REPAIR OF VARIOUS HEAVY EQUIPMENTS AND VEHICLES	P3,354,137.00 (2005 Annual Budget)
5CB-GSC-130	PURCHASE OF VEHICLE-BRAND NEW, 6 WHEELERS, DROPSIDE WITH AIRCON AND STANDARD TOOLS	P1,100,000.00 (2005 Annual Budget)
5CB-GSC-131	PURCHASE OF QEUEING SYSTEM (DIGITAL QUEUE SYSTEM)	P190,000.00 (2005 Annual Budget)
5CB-GSC-132	PURCHASE OF VARIOUS SUPPLIES/ MATERIALS FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF BUILDINGS AND ROADS	P1,757,816.58 (2005 Annual Budget)

Issuance of Bid Documents	November 7, 2005 (BAC Office, 2nd Flr. Right wing, City Hall, GSC)
Pre-Bidding Conference	November 10, 2005, 2:00 PM, City Mayor's Conference Room
Dropping of Bids	November 23, 2005, 1:30 PM BAC Office
Opening of Bids	November 23, 2005, 2:00 PM, City Mayor's Conference Room

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat, BAC Office, 2nd Flr., City Hall Bldg., GSC (tel. nos 083-301-3834 and 083-301-0553) Details/specifications of above items were also posted @ www.procurementservice.org and www.gensantos.gov.ph

All particulars relative to Eligibility Requirements, Receipt and Opening of Bids, Evaluation, Post Qualification and Award shall be governed by R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation

The City Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract in situations set forth in Section 41 of the IRR-A of R.A. 9184

(Sgd.) NAEL JOSEPH D. CRUSPERO
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Oct. 27 & Nov. 4, 2005)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 * (632) 920-6446
E-mail: sssemail@info.com.ph * Website http://www.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

WEB ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

The bid aims to engage the services of a Consultant to undertake the enhancement of the existing SSS Website

1. The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM (SSS), through the *2005 Corporate Budget* intends to apply the sum of P2,000,000.00, being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for SSS Web Enhancement Project. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of the financial proposals.
2. The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential bidders to apply for eligibility and shortlisting *to provide consultancy services for the enhancement of the existing SSS Website.* Interested consultants must submit their LOIs on or before November 11, 2005 at the Bids & Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, 6th Floor, SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City and secure therefrom Part I of the Bidding Documents consisting of the Eligibility Documents. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents on November 16, 2005 not later than 3:30p.m. at *the Green Room, 12th floor, SSS Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.* Any Eligibility Documents submitted after this deadline shall be declared "late" and shall not be accepted by the Bids and Awards Committee. Only those Bidders that are shortlisted will be entitled to submit bids.
3. LOIs must be delivered by hand, through mail, or facsimile to the address below on or before November 11, 2005.
4. Only prospective bidders whose submitted contracts, as stated in the eligibility documents submitted for registration, are similar in nature and complexity to the contract to be bid, shall be considered for shortlisting.
5. The BAC shall draw up the shortlist of consultants from those who have submitted LOIs and have been determined as eligible both in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A). The shortlist of prospective bidders shall consist of five (5) consultants. The criteria and rating system for shortlisting are:

• Applicable experience of Consultants	30%
• Qualification of personnel to be assigned to the job (education, work experience, number of years in firm, etc.)	50%
• Current workload relative to capacity	20%

6. Shortlisted consultants shall be invited to participate in the bidding for this project through a Letter of Invitation to Bid issued by the BAC of the SSS. Part II of the Bidding Documents shall be issued only to shortlisted consultants from the address below upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of P500.00. The method of payment will be on a cash basis, payable at the SSS Cashiering Department, SSS Main Building, Ground Floor, upon accomplishment of SSS Form R6. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective consultant or his authorized representative.
7. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, and is restricted unless otherwise stated, to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR-A of R.A 9184, only bids from shortlisted consultants will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in the Eligibility Documents. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A 9184, the contract will only be awarded to the Highest Rated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

   The SSS shall evaluate bids using the Quality Cost Based Evaluation (QCBE) procedure. The SSS shall indicate the weights to be allocated for the Technical and Financial Proposals. The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Instructions to Bidders.
8. Interested consultants may obtain further information from the SSS at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
9. The contract shall be completed within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days
10. The *SSS* reserves the right to reject any and all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Bids and Awards Committee
The Secretariat
6th Floor, SSS Main Building
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel # 922-2991,924-7380, 920-6401 local 5491
Email – bac@sss.gov.ph
Facsimile number – (02) 924-7380

(Sgd.) THE CHAIRMAN
BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI - Oct. 27, 2005)

The sweet truth in oral care

WANT TO SATISFY THAT SWEET tooth of yours without bringing harm to the rest of your teeth? Now you can with xylitol.

A naturally-occurring penta sugar alcohol found in fruits and vegetables (i.e. raspberries, mushrooms and algae) obtained through the hydrogenation of xylose, It is commonly used as a sweetener and tastes and looks exactly like sugar. However, these are where the similarities end. In fact, while sugar provides bodily harm, xylitol - a normal intermediate product of carbohydrate metabolism in humans and animals-plays an important role in one's health. The US Code of Federal Regulations even stated that xylitol "may be safely used in foods for special dietary uses, provided the amount used is not greater than that required to produce its intended effect."

A five-carbon sugar that prevents the growth of bacteria, xylitol builds immunity, protects against degenerative diseases and has anti-aging benefits. But what is perhaps considered as xylitol's greatest health effect is in oral care. It is non-fermentable and cannot be converted to acids by oral bacteria. Xylitol creates an alkaline environment that is unreceptive to all the destructive bacteria, particularly to Streptococcus mutans, and inhibits plaque formation.

Unlike sugar, which is a risk factor for dental caries, xylitol has energy value, but is found to have either low or no caries-promoting properties.

Furthermore, a study done abroad (Pediatrics, Vol. 102 October 1998) has established the fact that xylitol is effective in the prevention of Acute Otitis Media (AOM) and decreases the need for antimicrobials in children. AOM is the most common indication for antimicrobial treatment in children. According to the authors, one mechanism of action of xylitol in preventing AOM is its ability to inhibit the growth of pneumococci, although xylitol appears to be so effective that it probably affects other otopathogens at the same time.

The study stressed that xylitol is absorbed slowly by the gut wall and causes osmotic diarrhea when ingested in large amounts. However, children can tolerate daily doses of xylitol up to 45 grams without significant gastrointestinal symptoms.

In the Philippines, science-based healthcare company Pediapharma Inc (PPI) has introduced its innovative oral/dental health products formulated with xylitol: the Xylogel, a teething and healing oral gel; Xylorinse, a non-alcohol mouthwash with fluoride and; Xyloclens, a safe and sweet-tasting kiddie toothpaste. These unique products were formulated by pediatrician Dr. Arturo C. Ludan, president/CEO of PPI and 1977 TOYM awardee.

Xylogel's four-point benefits include relieving teething pain or discomfort, healing of inflamed gums and mouth sores, preventing dental caries and AOM. And just recently, a local study conducted among infants showed that Xylogel is effective in the treatment of mouth sores in just two to three days compared to another product. On the other hand, Xylorinse is an alcohol-free and fresh mint flavor mouthwash that contains 2.5 percent xylitol, cetylpyridinium chloride for a safe oral and pharyngeal antiseptic, and sodium fluoride for strengthening the dental enamel. Lastly, Xyloclens is a safe and natural toothpaste with xylitol and fluoride, especially designed for kids to prevent dental cavities and maintain excellent oral health. It comes in bubblegum and strawberry flavors. All three xylitol products are Halal-certified, which means they underwent strict scrutiny to ensure that they are pure, safe and quality-assured and are therefore allowed under the Islamic law.

Your Global
Business
Part

FEDEX PARTICIPATES IN US-RP TRADE SEMINAR

FedEx Express (FedEx), the world's largest express transportation company, was recently invited by the United States Commercial Service to participate in the 'Doing Business with the United States' seminar at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. The seminar was sponsored by the US Embassy and featured a catalog exhibit featuring new products and services from the states of Florida, Oklahoma, and South Carolina. The 'Doing Business with the United States Seminar' was also held in Davao City. Shown in picture during the Manila seminar are (from left): Genaro Reyes, FedEx national sales manager; Samuel David, FedEx country manager; Aida Miranda, US Commercial Service senior commercial specialist; Brent Omdahl, US Commercial Service commercial attaché; and Harold Bonacquist, US Embassy vice-consul.

Bits & Clips

Invitation to nursing seminar and assembly

THE PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF EMERGENcy Care Nurses Inc (PSECN) will hold its 2nd Annual General Assembly and Update on Oct. 28 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Palm Plaza Hotel on Pedro Gil corner M. Adriatico Streets in Malate, Manila. "ER Nurses in Action: Vibrant, Visible and Vigilant" will be the theme this year. Special topics to be discussed are: Accidental poisoning in children, Pediatric emergencies, and Health assessment as an essential tool. Registration fee is at P500 and membership fee will be P100. Interested parties may contact Geralyn Quirante at 521-8540 local 2506 or 526-7875 (office hours only).

Citibank's One Million Thanks To You promo

LAST CALL TO ALL CITIBANK CUSTOmers hoping to win a brand-new Nissan Patrol: You only have until Oct. 31 to join and get a chance to win in Citibank's One Million Thanks To You raffle promotion. Other prizes include such high-end gadgets as Canon Digital Video Camera, Sony TV with DVD Home Theater, Apple iPOD units, Pentium 4-powered PCs and Philips TV with rack. To join, simply complete the Thank You Raffle Registration Form and submit this to your account officer. Once this is accomplished, you are immediately qualified to join the raffle. Registration forms must be turned in on or before 12 noon of Oct. 31. All raffle chances will be accumulated until the end of the promotion period. The grand raffle draw will be on Nov. 15, where 20 lucky customers will walk away with valuable prizes totaling over P3 million.

Westgate's one-stop-shop auto hub

THE WESTGATE AUTO CENTER LOCATED right at the heart of Alabang, Muntinlupa City continues to occupy a stellar role in Westgate's retail lifestyle development. Beginning with the 1,600-square meter Minerva Tyre Gallery, motorists can surely find whatever their auto needs are, what with Minerva Tyre Gallery's ample magnitude of auto and tire services that would surely sweep motorists off their feet. The main attraction of the Auto Center, however, lies inside the cluster buildings that house some premium automotive brands and detail outlets that cater to the most demanding needs of various motorists. Complementing, meanwhile, the Westgate Auto Center's existence are some of the more popular car retail and service showrooms like Mazda, GM Chevrolet, and Nissan, Westgate. Westgate Center is open from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. daily. For inquiries, call Westgate Center at tel. nos. 809-5428, 807-6729.

Vitality Week in ClickTheCity.com

CLICKTHECITY.COM FOCUSES ON FITness and health during the whole month of October. Read articles that cover nutrition, relaxation, sports and recreation--all part of how to reach the state of equilibrium. Simply put, it's mental or emotional balance. Throughout the Vitality Month, ClickTheCity will also carry fun promos that will enable you to win prizes, from swimming lessons to gym sessions and spa treatments--absolutely for free. If you like how that sounds, all you have to do is log on to www.clickthecity.com.

Family Wellness Festival

THE BANTAY KALIkasan, one of the key programs of the ABS-CBN Foundation has organized an event that will celebrate healthy lifestyle options as well as promote them. Dubbed as "The Family Wellness Festival: (Live, Learn and Love)," the event will be held at the La Mesa Ecopark located at the East Fairview Subdivision, Commonwealth Ave. (La Mesa Dam Compound.), Quezon City on Nov. 12 to 13. Another first will be an open-air two-day affair Jazz Festival at the La Mesa Ampitheater. Ticket prices are P500 for the Jazz Festival and Neo-Ethnic Music Festival with a two-day pass to the Wellness Festival, or at P150 for just the Neo-Ethnic Music Festival plus a two-day pass. Interested parties may call the Bantay Kalikasan Office at 415-2227 or 410-9670 for ticket reservations and other inquiries.

Management styles, leadership confab

OFFICIALS IN GOVERNMENT, NON-GOVernment and religious and civic organizations are expected to gain contemporary and practical insights from the Festival of Leadership and Management Styles Conference for Good Governance set on Oct. 27 to 29 at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) Conference Center in Makati City. For Conference details, contact IMDM's Jenny Mondano at 751-0205 or William Aquino at AIM Conference Center in Baguio at (074) 442-8877 to 78. You may also e-mail at clts_phils@yahoo.com.

ProductFILES

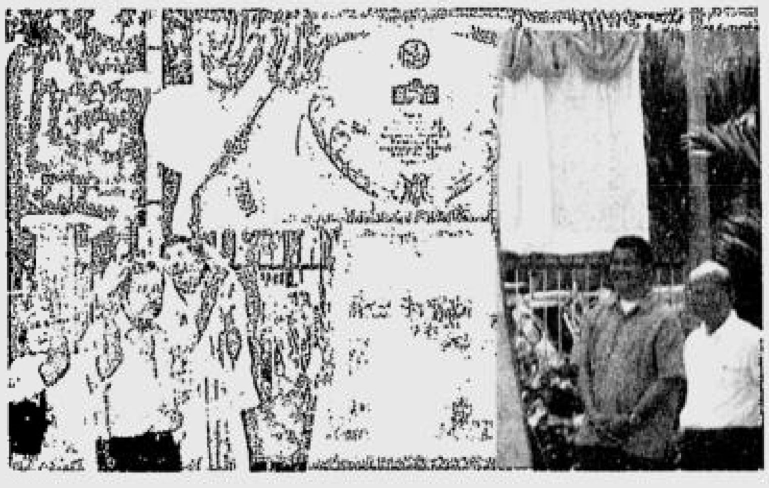
Charmee For All Types of Flow with Wings

CHARMEE FOR ALL Types of Flow with Wings is the latest addition to the Charmee Feminine Protection Family. Keeping the Charmee thrust of quality protection, the new product with a length of 235 mm is longer than most regular pads in the market. Designed for better protection, it also has anti-leak control channels that allows even fluid distribution across the pad. It has a soft and comfortable to leave skin feeling soft and irritation-free. It has Charmee's unique wetness protection system that locks away fluid as gel in the pad for a fresh feeling all day. Charmee For All Types of Flow with Wings comes in a yellow plastic pack of 8s. The pads are individually wrapped so you can conveniently carry these around or slip in your bag. The suggested retail price is at 18/pack, that's just 2.25 pesos per pad. Imagine value protection at an all day affordable price. Charmee For All Types of Flow can easily be spotted at your nearby supermarket, grocery and leading drugstores nationwide.

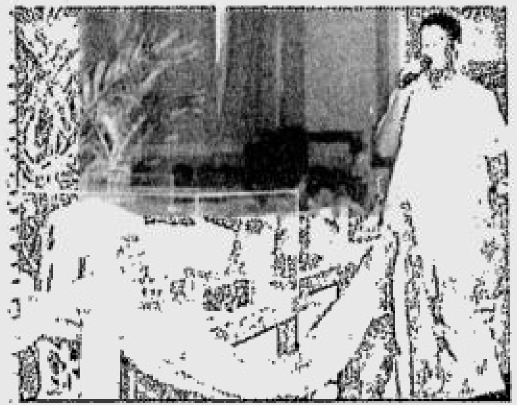
An all-packed Jollibee Kids Meal with the Teen Titans

GIVE YOUR KIDS THE RIDE OF THEIR LIFE with the fast and fun Teen Titans Herocycle that comes in every Jollibee Kids Meal. The young heroes of the Teen Titans, seen over Cartoon Network, — Robin, Raven, Beast Boy, Starfire, and Cyborg — are out to bring superb fun and excitement to every kid and kid-at-heart. When you get them together on their five vehicles, your kids will not only have an electrifying company of playmates but will also have a superb fighting force that forms the T-Sub. They're the newest team to beat and your kids would love to belong in this action-packed bunch in Jollibee.

NEW LANDMARK IN ROSARIO, CAVITE UNVEILED



Rosario, Cavite Vice Mayor Jose Rozel 'Jhing-Jhing' E. Hernandez (2nd from right) leads the unveiling of the new landmark of the Parish of the Holy Rosary together with Rev. Fr. Oliver Genuino (3rd from left) during the 160th Foundation Anniversary of Rosario town on Oct. 22, held at the town plaza. Also in photo is Councilor Manny Estores (right).



EPC'S GRAND INVESTOR'S DAY

Architect Leonardo Dayao Jr, head of design management department of Earth + Style group of companies, proudly shares the architectural details and design inspiration behind Villagio di Xavier-Mondo Bambini (VXMB) during Earth Prosper Corp's Grand Investor's Day. It is the latest property being developed in Jubilation New Biñan, Laguna's premier township development. To become part of this youthful and vibrant community, please contact 687-3524 or click on www.earthandstyle.com.

CDO cited for saving 116 children from malnutrition

A VALENZUELA-BASED FOOD PROcessing firm was cited Oct. 15 by local government officials for taking serious stand to help eradicate child malnutrition in the country.

Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian underscored the importance of a serious program that addresses the problem of child malnutrition at the graduation rites of the 116 preschool children who benefited from "Gabay Buhay" supplemental feeding project funded by CDO-Foodsphere Inc.

Gabay Buhay is a community-based project being undertaken by Odyssey Foundation Inc, a non-stock, non-profit organization serving as CDO's corporate social responsibility arm.

"I am deeply honored to have been invited as your guest speaker in this important occasion," said Gatchalian in his remarks before parents and the 116 children who comprised the first batch of the feeding program.

"I would like to thank the owners of CDO and the people behind Odyssey Foundation for coming up with such a good project that is beneficial to the poor people of the community," he said.

Odyssey Foundation launched the supplemental feeding project mid June this year. It identified 116 children from Barrio Paso de Blas who are undernourished and enrolled them in the program after three weeks of clinical preparations.

Under the program, supplemental feeding was conducted four times a week, from Tuesday to Friday from June to October. Aside from food, the children were also given vitamins donated by United Laboratories Inc.

Four monthly check ups were conducted among the children. Results from the fourth month evaluation showed that none of the children was suffering from malnutrition anymore.

"We are happy and encouraged by the outcome of the first phase of the Gabay Buhay project," said Eleanore Erguiza, a social worker from Odyssey Foundation.

"The program has given these children a chance to experience healthy childhood, which is essential if they are to become productive members of our society.

This serves as a challenge for the Foundation and its partners to continue implementing the program to save more Filipino children out of malnutrition." said Erguiza.

The graduates were given certificates with the theme "Malulusog Na Po Kami" manifesting that their weight and nutritional status have improved to normal levels 16 weeks after they were enrolled in the program in June.

A survey conducted by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI) in 2001 showed that 3.7 million Filipino preschool children, with ages 5 years and below, were underweight.

In a June 21, 2005 report of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), 12 million out of 17 million Filipino children aged 2 to 10 are malnourished.

Among children aged three to six, 2.20 million or 28 percent are underweight.

The DSWD report also indicated that incidence of child malnutrition in Metro Manila is highest in Kalookan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela.

On a global scale, the Unicef has ranked the Philippines as the second country (next to Africa) with the highest malnutrition rate. The report said 29 percent of African children are malnourished, Filipino children comes next at 27 percent.

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Honolulu, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Las Vegas, Seattle, Portland (OR)	$615
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Other East Coast cities in the U.S.	$899

As the days get shorter, why stop having fun? Plan an off-season vacation with these fantastic fares from Northwest Airlines*.

Book your ticket by November 15, 2005 and fly on or before December 31, 2005 and return within 6 months of departure. Fares exclude fuel surcharge, passenger facility charges and any taxes. Terms and conditions apply.

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Terms and Conditions: This offer is valid for paid round-trip Transpacific flights on Northwest Airlines from Manila to the U.S. on Northwest operated and Northwest Airlink flights using VSALE fares for travel from Manila between October 1 and December 31, 2005. Passenger(s) must return within 6 months from departure date • Blackout dates: Return travel from U.S. to Manila is not permitted from December 11 and December 31, 2005 • Passenger is responsible for any Passenger Facility Charges, Fuel or Security Surcharge, or any other airport taxes • Ticketing period between October 1 and November 15, 2005 • Tickets must be issued within 3 days of booking confirmation • Travel must originate and end in Manila • Booking Class: V (Economy) • Infant/Child discount applies • Fares are eligible for WorldPerks miles • Flight/Date changes prior to or after departure permitted at a charge of US$75 provided the new itinerary meets all the provisions of this promotion • One free stopover is permitted within routing. Stop in Japan is not permitted in the outbound portion of the trip • Origin/Destination may not be changed once ticketed • Partially used tickets are non-refundable / Totally unused tickets are refundable at US$150 penalty • Restriction Box: NON-END/REF in MIL • Fares are valid on E tickets only • Other restrictions may apply • Fares are subject to change without prior notice • Northwest has the final authority in the interpretation of these rules

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region XIV, Cotabato City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Food Authority, Regional Office XIV, through the Grains Operating Fund intends to apply the sum of Eight Million Ninety Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Six & 28/100 (P8,099,776.28) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the Contract for the Procurement of Services of Sixty Seven (67) Security Guards for deployment in the following installations:

Place of Deployment	No. Of Guards	Monthly Cost	Annual Cost
Maguindanao	20	192,545.65	2,310,547.8
Cotabato City	18	199,435.47	2,393,225.67
Lanao Sur	4	38,509.13	462,109.56
Marawi City	9	90,454.58	1,085,455.01
Sulu	8	77,018.26	924.219.12
Tawi-Tawi	8	77,018.26	924,219.12

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in the Republic Act 5183 (RA 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

PARTICULAR	DATE/TIME/VENUE
Issuance of Eligibility Requirements and Bid ORC Documents	October 28 - November 10 2005/ 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM / NFA XIV, Cotabato City
Submission of Letter of Intent	November 14, 2005 NLT 12:00 NOON
Pre-Bidding Conference	November 14, 2005 / @ 1:00 PM/ NFA RO XIV Conference Room, Cotabato City
Deadline for the submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Tender Forms	November 28, 2005/@ 1:00 PM / NFA XIV, Cotabato City
Opening of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Tender Forms	November 28, 2005/@ 1:30 PM, NFA XIVConference Room, Cotabato City

A complete sets of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the BAC XIV Secretariat upon payment of a non-re fundable fee in the amount of Twenty thousand pesos (Php 20,000.00) from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM beginning October 28, 2005. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the amount and form as enumerated under Section 27.2 of IRR-A. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Provincial Manager/BAC XIV Vice Chairman Mr. Kitem P. Kadatuan or Supervising Enforcement and Investigation Officer/BACXIV Member Mr. Nelson P. Sañada.

The NFA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY REGIONAL OFFICE XIV
Asst Regional Director Ofelia M. Sero
ORC Complex, Cotabato City
(064) 421-24-07, Fax (064) 421-21-28
nfa14orc@yahoo.com

(Sgd.) **OFELIA M. SERO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Oct. 27 & Nov. 10, 2005)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
MATIMYAS BLDG., 101 E. RODRIGUEZ SR. AVE., QUEZON CITY
TEL. NO.: (632) 712-3341 TO 54 FAX NO.: (632) 712-1110 E-MAIL: www.nfa.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Provision of Insurance Packages to NFA Employees for year 2006

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*, through its *2006 Corporate Operating Budget* intends to apply the sum of *P16,180,000.00* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *the provision of Insurance Packages to NFA Employees for year 2006*, as follows:

Lot	Particulars	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
1	Group Hospitalization Insurance Program	14,000,000.00
2	Executive Health Care Program	1,100,000.00
3	Group Accident Insurance Program	400,000.00
4	Group Term Life Insurance	680,000.00
	TOTAL	16,180,000.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *the provision of Insurance Packages to NFA Employees for year 2006.* Period of coverage is January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **Instruction to Bidders** (ITB).

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/ sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY-BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.*

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P5,000.00. The method of payment will be *CASH.* The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties** on ***November 11, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.*** at the *NFA Boardroom, 10th floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.*

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the ***NFA Boardroom, 10th floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City*** on November 25, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in either of the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Cash, cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bid opening shall be on ***November 25, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.*** at the *NFA Boardroom, 10th floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procuring Entity - NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Contact Persons - Jose D. Chua / Violeta S. Villarama
Address - 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City
Telephone No. - (632) 712-3341 loc. 8923 or 8520
e-mail address - vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph
Fax No. - (632) 712-0454
Website - www.nfa.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.**
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair
for Administration and General Support Services

(PDI--Oct. 27 & Nov. 3, 2005)

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation
Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio
Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines
Telephone 8931320 ext. 5131 Fax 8401461

PNOC
The Energy Company

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

Rental of Two (2) Units Engine Driven Brine Pump Including
Pump Operators and Maintenance Crew
under EDC 05-167

The Approved Budget is PHP 2,976,000.00 chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund. The contract duration is six (6) months.

Application forms for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be secured from the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group (c/o Mateo C. Uribe) **starting October 26, 2005, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (PHP500.00).

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **November 3, 2005, 2:00 p.m. at the BAC Room, 1st Floor, Building V, PNOC-EDC, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila.**

Applications for Eligibility and sealed bids shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group at PNOC-EDC, 1st floor Bldg. 5, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, **not later than 2:00 p.m. of (Contracts Administration Group Office Wall Clock Time) of November 15, 2005** and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to abort the bidding process, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered the most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Oct. 27, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
ZAMBOANGA CITY SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
San Ramon, Zamboanga City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

INFRA STRUCTURE PROJECTS AT THE RELOCATION SITE OF PRISON AND PENAL FARM IN UPPER BUNGUIAO/UPPER CURUAN, ZAMBOANGA CITY

1. **Construction of One (1) Unit Duplex Residential Building**
2. **Construction of One (1) Unit Administration Building**
3. **Construction of One (1) Unit Prison Dormitory Building**

The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA), through the Corporate Operating Budget 2005 intends to apply the following sum being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the aforesaid projects, to wit:

Construction of One (1) Unit Duplex Residential Building	P 1,848,633.25
Construction of One (1) Unit Administration Building	P 6,021,237.12
Construction of One (1) Unit Prison Dormitory Building	P 8,211,549.80

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

ZCSEZA now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the aforesaid projects. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs and secure the Eligibility Documents upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00)**. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents upon payments of a nonrefundable fee of **Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P2,500.00)**.

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

	Construction of One (1) Unit Duplex Residential Building	Construction of One (1) Unit Administration Building	Construction of One (1) Unit Prison Dormitory Building
Issuance of Eligibility Documents	November 2-8, 2005	November 2-8, 2005	November 2-8, 2005
Deadline for Submission & Opening of Eligibility Documents	November 15, 2005 10:00 AM, AVR, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Building, Z.C.	November 16, 2005 10:00 AM, AVR, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Building, Z.C.	November 17, 2005 10:00 AM, AVR, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Building, Z.C.
Issuance of Bid Documents	November 22-25, 2005	November 22-25, 2005	November 22-25, 2005
Pre-bid Conference	December 1, 2005 10:00 AM, AVR, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Building, Z.C.	December 1, 2005 10:00 AM, AVR, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Building, Z.C.	December 1, 2005 10:00 AM, AVR, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Building, Z.C.
Submission, Receipt, & Opening of bids	December 12, 2005 10:00 AM, AVR, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Building, Z.C.	December 13, 2005 10:00 AM, AVR, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Building, Z.C.	December 14, 2005 10:00 AM, AVR, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Building, Z.C.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representative who choose to attend at the address and date stated above.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following form:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid
Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Manager's Check	One Percent (1%)
GSIS Surety Bond	Two and a half Percent (2 1/2%)

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

ZCSEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) GEORGINA PANTALEON-YU
Chairman and Administrator
Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority
Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City
(062) 992-0409, (062) 993-0209
E-mail: Ecozone_bac@yahoo.com

(PDI - Oct. 20 & 27, 2005)

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DIVISION OF SORSOGON
Capitol Compound, Sorsogon City, Philippines
Tel # (056) 211-5400 Fax # (056) 211-1929
Email: almac_bac@yahoo.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID (RE-BID)

The Department of Education, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project: Supply and Delivery of Elementary Table & Chairs and Secondary Armchairs CY 2004 & 2005
Location: Various Schools in Sorsogon Division
Brief Description:

	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
Lot A : Elementary Tables & Chairs – CY 2004	P 2,052,000.00
Lot B : Secondary Armchairs – CY 2004	1,115,950.00
Lot C : Elementary Tables & Chairs – CY 2005	5,846,400.00
Lot D : Secondary Armchairs – CY 2005	2,816,900.00

ABC & Funding Source - Funding Source is the Government of the Philippines (GOP), 2004 and 2005 General Appropriations Act (GAA) (75% allocation)
Contract Duration - 120 calendar days from the date of Acceptance of Notice to Proceed
Delivery Sites - "Door to door" delivery to various recipient schools (See Schedule of Requirements of the Bidding Documents)

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R. A. 9184 known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interests or outstanding capital stocks belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II, Instruction to Bidders of the Bidding Documents.

The DepED Division of Sorsogon will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all prospective bidders on November 2, 2005, 10:00 A.M. at the DepED, D. O. Conference Hall, Sorsogon City.

Bids must be received on or before November 14, 2005, 10:00 A.M. at the Division Office. Late Bids shall be rejected.

Bids in excess of the approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) per lot shall be rejected.

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Pesos Only (Php2,000.00) to the Division Office Cashier.

The *DepED Division of Sorsogon* BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
(Sgd.) VIRGILIO S. REAL
BAC Chairman

(PDI-Oct. 21 & 27, 2005)

Unilab, PMA set Rizal Award to outstanding doctors

OUTSTANDING FILIPINO doctors in community leadership, government service, clinical practice and academe and research recognized this year in the 15th Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Awards (JPRMA) of the Philippine Medical Association (PMA) and the pharmaceutical leader United Laboratories, Inc. (Unilab).

The JPRMA is the only award-giving body in the country that annually pays tribute to Filipino physicians who have demonstrated excellence in their profession and service to others. The Award duly recognizes these unsung heroes for the nobility of their endeavors, driven not by material considerations but by their dedication and genuine concern for others.

The awarding ceremony was held on Oct. 14 at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Makati City. This is the second year that four doctors were conferred with the award under four categories, namely: Community leadership, government service, clinical practice and academe and research.

PMA's partner in this endeavor is United Laboratories, Inc. (Unilab) which has been supporting the Awards since it was made nationwide in 1991. Such support affirms Unilab's commitment to improving the quality of life in the country by working hand in hand with doctors and healthcare professionals in meeting the healthcare needs of millions of Filipinos.

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila
COMMITTEE ON BIDS

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Supreme Court through the Committee on Bids invites authorized distributors/dealers of branded Personal Computers to pre-qualify and participate to bid for the following:

Name of Project	Approved Budget	Source of Funding
Lot 1. For Supreme Court and Lower Courts		
A. 750 units - Personal Computers B. 50 units - Dot Matrix Printer (136 cols.) C. 600 units - Dot Matrix Printer (80 cols.) D. 51 units - Laser Printer (high-end) E. 750 units - Automatic Voltage Regulator	P 73,459,100.00	Judiciary Development Fund
Lot 2. For the Philippine Judicial Academy		
A. 35 units - Personal Computers B. 35 units - Laser Printers (low-end) C. 35 units - Automatic Voltage Regulators	P 2,985,675.00	SC PHILJA PMC Trust Fund
Lot 3. For Supreme Court (eNGAS)		
A. 1 unit - Blade Server B. 3 units - Tower Server C. 19 units - UPS (for workstations) D. 3 units - UPS (for tower servers) E. 19 sets - Software Licenses	P 2,130,000.00	Judiciary Development Fund

PERIOD OF DELIVERY:

For Lots 1 and 2 - Sixty (60) calendar days after issuance of Purchase Order
For Lot 3 - Thirty (30) calendar days after issuance of Purchase Order

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:

I. **PRE-BID CONFERENCE**

The pre-bid conference will be held on:

Date: **11 November 2005, Friday**
Venue: Conference Room 1, (Mezzanine Floor), Centennial Building, Supreme Court, Padre Faura St., Ermita, Manila
Time: 1:00 PM (for LOT 1) • 2:00 PM (for LOT 2) • 3:00 PM (for LOT 3)

II. **SUBMISSION OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND OPENING OF BIDS**

On the bidding, the legal requirements for eligibility of prospective bidders must be personally submitted by the duly authorized representative, and the bids will be opened, thereafter, in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives, to be held on:

Date: **25 November 2005, Friday**
Venue: Conference Room 1, (Mezzanine Floor), Centennial Building, Supreme Court, Padre Faura St., Ermita, Manila
Time: 10:00 AM (for LOT 1) • 1:00 PM (for LOT 2) • 2:00 PM (for LOT 3)

Prospective bidders must not be related to the head of the procuring entity or any member of the Committee on Bids or its Secretariat either by consanguinity or affinity up to the third civil degree.

Interested bidders may secure eligibility requirements and bid documents from **The Secretariat, Committee on Bids, Property Division, 3rd Floor Annex Building, Supreme Court**, after payment of a non-refundable fee of **Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) for LOT 1, Two Thousand Pesos ((P2,000.00) for LOT 2 and Two thousand Pesos (P2,000.00) for LOT 3**, prior to the conduct of pre-bid conference. For additional information, the bidders may contact the Secretary, Atty. Enner R.C. Cabanilla at telefax no. 5251270 or Ms. Norma C. Josue at tel. no. 5266419.

The Committee on Bids reserves the right to: 1) reject any or all bids, 2) waive any defects or informalities therein, 3) or accept any bid/s or offer/s which it may consider to be most advantageous and beneficial to the government.

24 October 2005

(Sgd.) **JOSE P. PEREZ**
Chairman

(PDI - Oct. 27 & Nov. 3, 2005)

TransCo

National Transmission Corporation
South Luzon Operation and Maintenance
Tel. No. : (02) 5206776; (02) 9814595/9814539/9814576/
9814577/9814578 LOC. 4002; (049) 4114500 LOC. 4002

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

AD NO. TRANSCO 2005-11B

The National Transmission Corporation, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder requirements:

SCHEDULE	PR NUMBER	ITEM DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	APPROVED BUDGET
A1	3BAT-05-210	PORTABLE POWER QUALITY AND DISTURBANCE ANALYZER INSTRUMENT	2 SETS	P 9,200,000.00
A2	3CAV-05-446	COLD GALVANIZING COMPOUND	182 QUARTZ	2,000,000.00
A3	3LAG-05-11694	HOTLINE TOOLS FOR 69KV T/L STRUCTURES	1 LOT	9,700,000.00
A4	3LAG-05-11697	ULTRAVIOLET CORONA IMAGER AND DATABASE SOFTWARE DOCUMENT SYSTEM	1 LOT	9,648,000.00
A5	3ASA-05-009	SURGE ARRESTER	6 UNITS	5,400,000.00
B1	PSMDN-05-136	MULTI-PRODUCT CALIBRATION SYSTEM	1 SET	7,800,000.00
		AC/DC KILOVOLTMETER	1 SET	1,000,000.00
B2	3PSMDN-05-144	OFFLINE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	1 SET	2,280,000.00
B3	3PSMDN-05-154	CIRCUIT BREAKER/SWITCH ANALYZER	1 SET	4,500,000.00
B4	3PSMDS-05-096	CIRCUIT BREAKER ANALYZER SYSTEM	1 SET	5,500,000.00
B5	3PSMDS-05-104	FULLY AUTOMATED THREE PHASE TRANSFORMER TURNS RATIO METER	1 SET	2,000,000.00
B6	3PSMDS-05-115	THREE PHASE RELAY TEST SYSTEM WITH GPS	2 SETS	14,000,000.00
B7	3PSMDS-05-116	INSULATION DIAGNOSTICS SYSTEM	1 SET	4.500,000.00
B8	3PSMDS-05-117	AC/DC HIGH VOLTAGE TEST SET	1 SET	5,500,000.00
B9	3PSMDS-05-118	WATER CONTENT MEASURING TEST EQUIPMENT	1 SET	2,000,000.00
C1	3LAG-05-11821	POWER TRANSFORMER DIVERTER SWITCH	1 UNIT	6,985,000.00
C2	3LAG-05-11846	ON LINE TAP CHANGER FILTER SYSTEM	2 SETS	7,000,000.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking similar projects with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed items for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is as follows:

Activities		Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents		Oct 27 up to a day before PB
2. Pre-bid Conference	A1-A5 B1-B9 C1-C2	November 3, 2005 9:00AM November 3, 2005 1:00PM November 9, 2005 9:00AM
3. Opening of Bids	A1-A5 B1-B9 C1-C2	November 18, 2005 November 21, 2005 November 22, 2005
4. Deadline for Submission of Bids at the OAVP Conference Room	A1-A5 B1-B9 C1-C2	November 18, 2005 8:30AM November 21, 2005 8:30AM November 22, 2005 8:30 AM

Bid Documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P500.00 minimum, or 0.01% of the ABC whichever is higher, per bidding schedule to the National Transmission Corporation Cashier. Complete set of Bid Documents may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat/MMS, Administration Division, SLO&M, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna.

The National Transmission Corporation assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The National Transmission Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality or defect therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

TRANSCO-South Luzon's other requirements are posted at the DBM Website: www.procurementservice.net.

(SGD) **R. B. VERGARA**
Chairman, BAC

(PDI--Oct. 27, 2005)

BUSINESS

BSP sees foreign investments hitting $1.2B

By Doris C. Dumlao

Inflows of FDIs, 'hot money' expected to remain healthy in '06

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS expects the country to lure $1.2 billion in fresh foreign direct investments next year, 33 percent better than the $900 million projected for this year.

The bulk of the prospective new investments would likely be poured into the manufacturing, mining and energy sectors, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said in a forum with the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines yesterday.

Tetangco added that the country would be within the radar screen of investors for as long as the prevailing political noise would not hamper the government's economic reform agenda.

"We have taken a number of steps to improve the investment environment, including the ruling by the Supreme Court saying that the Mining Act was constitutional," Tetangco said.

As the said law favors the entry of foreign investors into the mining sector, the high court's decision is seen attracting more foreign investors.

"Also, our biggest assets are the people. We have highly-skilled, English-speaking workers and, according to a regional survey, easily trained and more loyal," Tetangco said.

He said Filipinos were likewise enjoying comparative advantages in certain areas like in the call center industry.

"There will be investments in call centers, BPO (business process outsourcing), which are generally labor-intensive but require lower capital," Tetangco said.

FDI flows represent investments in productive businesses.

From January to July this year, the country generated $499 million worth of FDIs, more than double the $241 million a year ago, despite escalating political and economic jitters.

"I'm not an expert on politics but I think what investors are really looking at is whether or not political developments would have an impact on economic reforms that we're supposed to implement," Tetangco said.

He said that even in the second quarter of the year—when the election-rigging and illegal gambling pay-off controversies erupted—the financial markets hardly reacted. The market reaction was stronger when a petition was filed at the Supreme Court questioning the legality of the expanded value added tax.

As the eventual suspension of the VAT law was perceived as something that would affect the government's fiscal consolidation, it weighed down heavily on the financial markets, he said.

"Investors would react negatively if there's evidence that political developments were beginning to impact on economics, but if you look at what's happening to the economy right now, the picture is quite favorable," Tetangco said.

The SC has recently lifted the temporary restraining order on the VAT law, paving the way for its implementation starting November.

"We see investments, in the form of portfolio money and FDIs, continuing to flow mainly into manufacturing, energy and mining," he said.

Transco to check Sucat-Araneta transmission lines

By Abigail L. Ho

LAHUG, CEBU—TUESDAY'S POWER OUTAGE in certain cities in Metro Manila and nearby provinces has prompted the National Transmission Corp. (Transco) to examine some of its transmission lines.

In an interview here Tuesday evening, Transco president and chief executive Alan Ortiz said the state firm would have to inspect other lines emanating from the Sucat-Araneta line, which tripped Tuesday and caused power outages in Makati, Pasay, Taguig, Mandaluyong, Las Piñas, Paranaque and Laguna.

"What happened emphasizes the fragility of our national grid. These obviously need to be reinforced," he told reporters.

He noted that the tripping was a first for the Sucat-Araneta line. Although it had been in existence for about 25 years, the line had never tripped before.

He said Transco was still investigating the cause of the tripping, adding that it could have been something as trivial as a fallen tree limb or someone's kite hitting the line.

The Sucat-Araneta line was very important, he said, as it represented the junction between the north and south power grids.

While it would be quite easy for Transco to examine other lines, he said upgrading them, if necessary, was a different story as such upgrades were not part of the state firm's programmed capital expenditure budget.

"Upgrades are not included in our proposed capex. I don't think it's even part of the capex program in the next five years," he said. "We'll look at the lines. We'll go from there, see what needs to be done," he added.

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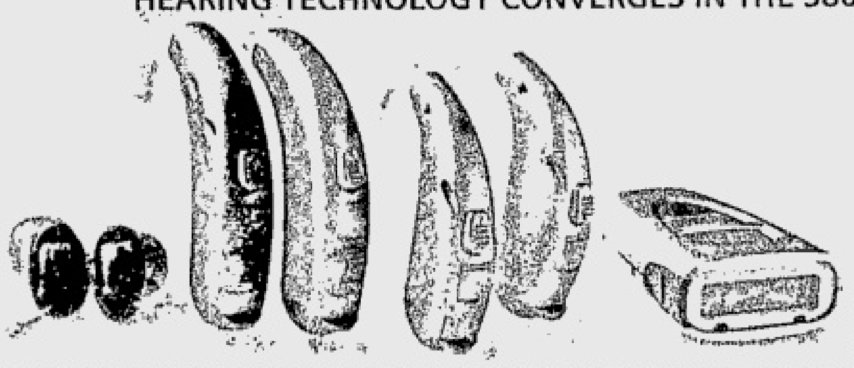

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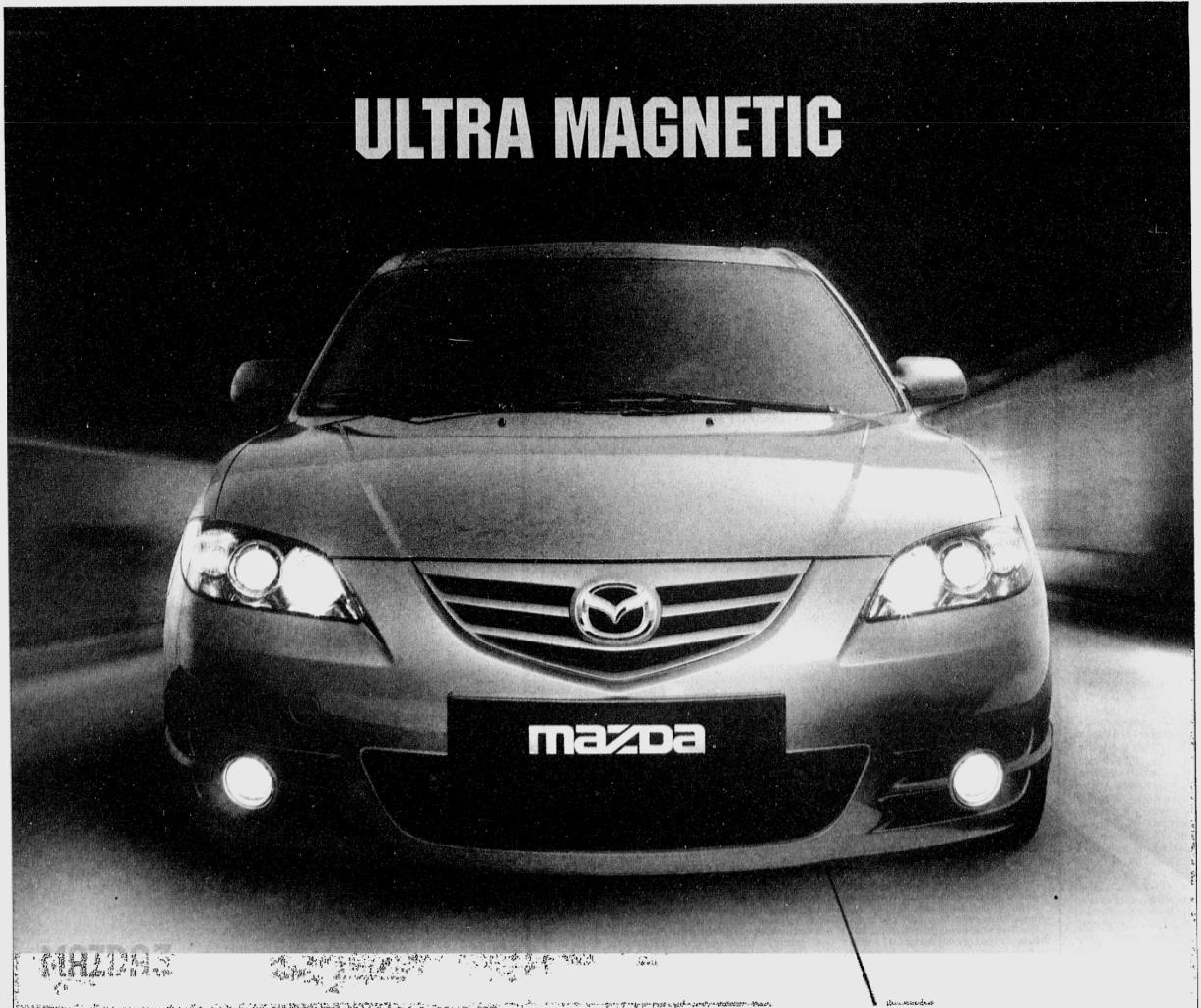

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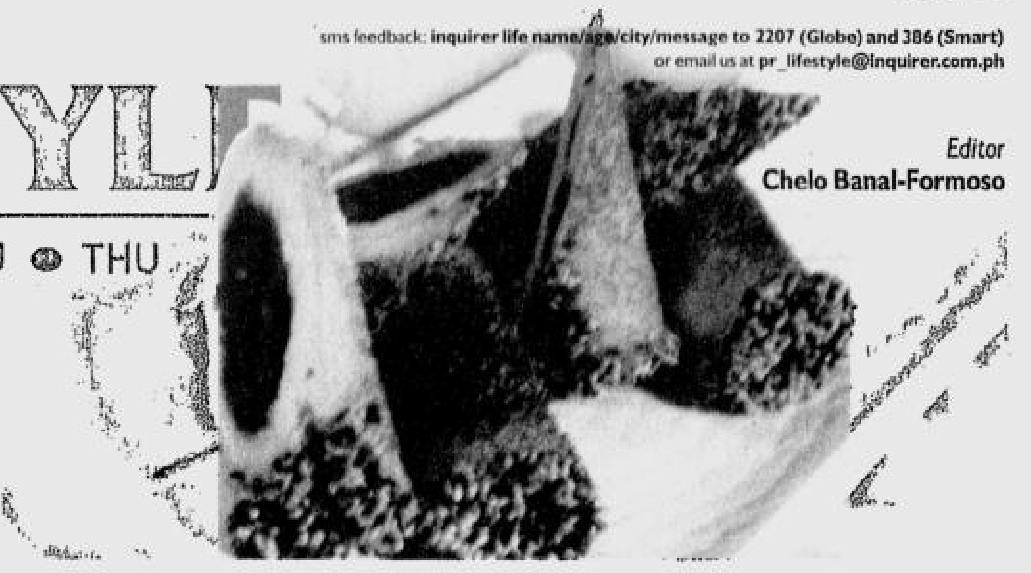
Editor
Chelo Banal-Formoso

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS ◎ TUESDAY FITNESS ◎ WEDNESDAY 2BU ◎ THU



RELLENONG Puto

Lolo Susing's nameless specialty

By Dennis Gabriel Bondoc

I USED TO PREPARE THIS snack/dessert for family and friends. They love it with a cup of *kapeng* Batangas or with my *lola*'s *tsokolateng batirol*.

My Lolo Susing prepared this *merienda* for the whole family usually during special gatherings like reunions, birthdays and other important family occasions.

I remember once we hosted a dinner of our clan. I helped my Lolo Susing prepare this. I was so amazed by his technique. I asked my *lolo* what to call the dish. He smiled and answered, "I don't know!"

By the age of 15, I was preparing this snack all by myself, even making my own variations like using as filling *minatamis na munggo*, *ube*, *keso*, and even leftover dishes such as *menudo*, *adobo* and *tortang giniling*.

When I worked in a Japanese-inspired international restaurant in Casino Filipino in Angeles City as a chef, I always included this as a dessert in our daily buffet.

My Japanese employer loved it and always asked me to prepare boxes of the snack for him to bring to Japan. He gave them as presents to his friends. Now that the dish has become popular with Filipinos and Japanese, I have to have a name for this.

"Rellenong Puto," as I now call it, has been included by my employer in our restaurant's pastry bar as a dessert. *Puto* is generic Kapampangan for bread.

I'm sure Lolo Susing is very proud of me.

> His family loves it, his Japanese boss loves it, and he loves it so he has had to think of a name for grandpa's recipe

PDI FAMILY RECIPES CONTEST

Rellenong Puto

Filling:

½ c of leftover *menudo*, *minatamis na munggo*, *ube halaya* or *tortang giniling*
½ bar butter

Coating:

1 c white-colored sesame seeds
½ c black sesame seeds
2 pcs medium-sized fresh eggs, beaten
oil for deep frying
½ c sesame oil (optional)
10 pcs leftover slices of loaf bread

Procedure:

Slice off the brown edges of the bread. Use a bottle as rolling pin to make each bread slice flat and thin. When flattened, put a small amount of butter on the bread and a spoonful of the chosen filling. Roll the flattened bread with filling, forming a log shape. Dip the edges into the beaten egg and roll over sesame seeds.

Preheat vegetable oil and add the sesame oil then deep-fry the log breads until golden brown. Cut diagonally and serve hot.

Variation: When using *ube* or *munggo* filling, top the bread with sweetened coconut cream to add zest and flavor.

½ c coconut cream
¼ c white sugar
Mix and boil until it has thickened.

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LIFESTYLE IS LOOKING FOR family recipes that use traditional Filipino techniques and ingredients.

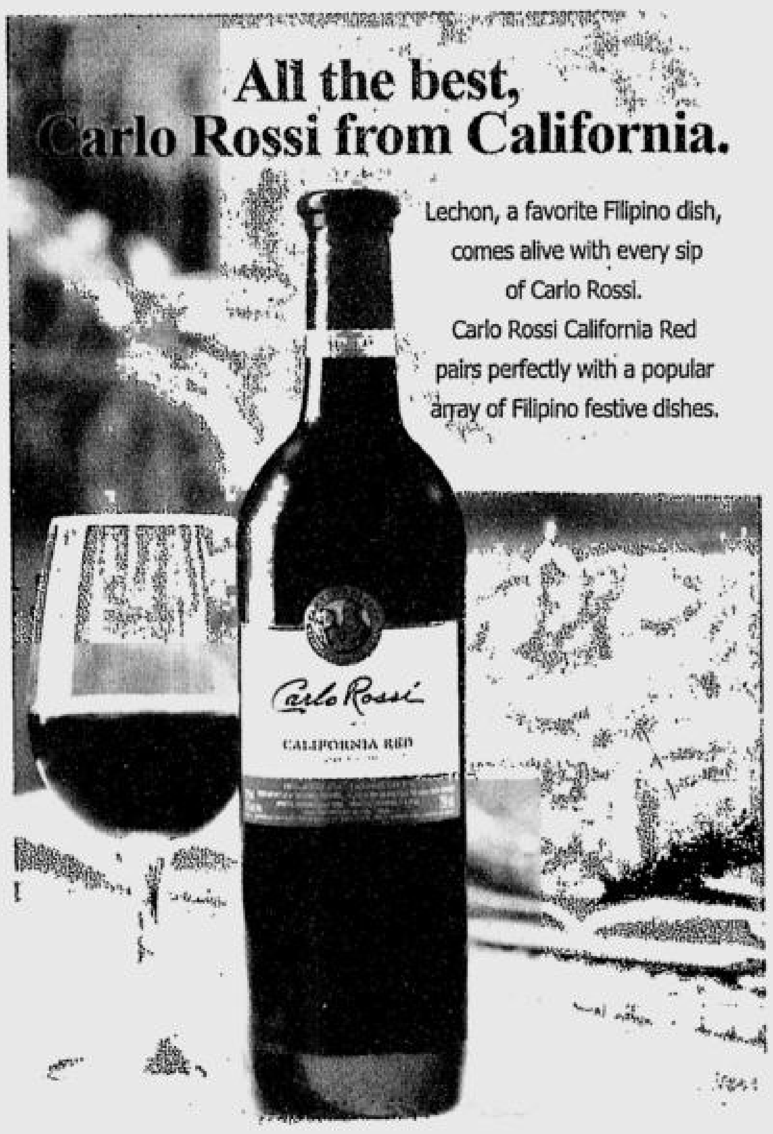
Send us your family recipes and, if your entry is chosen, you can win P2,000 worth of SM Supermarket gift checks, a gift from Imarflex or a class of choice at the Reggie Aspiras School of Culinary Arts.

Tell us who in your family first cooked and served the recipe; how many generations have cooked it; when it is usually cooked and served.

Include a photo of the dish and your name, address, daytime telephone number and e-mail address, if any.

Entries should be mailed or delivered to PDI Family Recipes Contest, c/o Lifestyle, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 1098 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City 1263. Or e-mail at **recipes@inquirer.com.ph**. For contest details, e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph.

Winners may claim their prizes from the PDI marketing office.



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8 Tue PM Kikiam, Siao Lung Pao, Open Mouth Sesame Seeds Balls.
9 Wed AM Peking Duck complete with Sauce Dip, Pancake, etc.
PM Roasted Pork
10 Thu PM Crystal Shrimp Balls, Stir Fried Shrimp Balls with Vegetable, Salted Fish Fried Rice, Fish Head in Noodles
11 Fri PM H.K. Style Siopao
12 Sat AM Chili sauce, Fried Dumplings, Fried Spring Roll
13 Sun AM Cantonese Congee, Beef Noodles, Vegetable in Oyster Sauce
Rice Topping Lesson on Nov. 15, 17, 18 PM.

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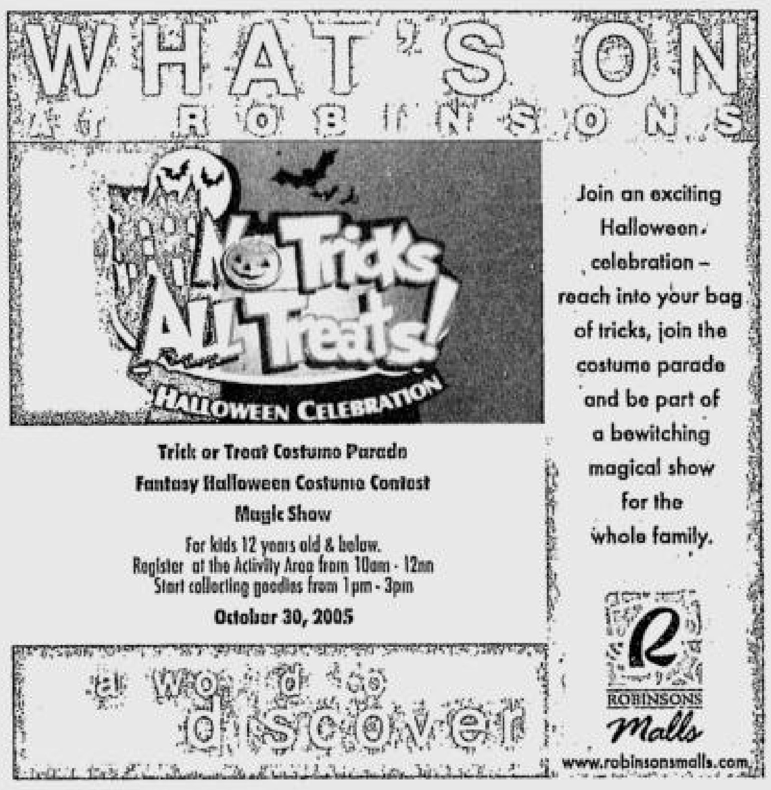

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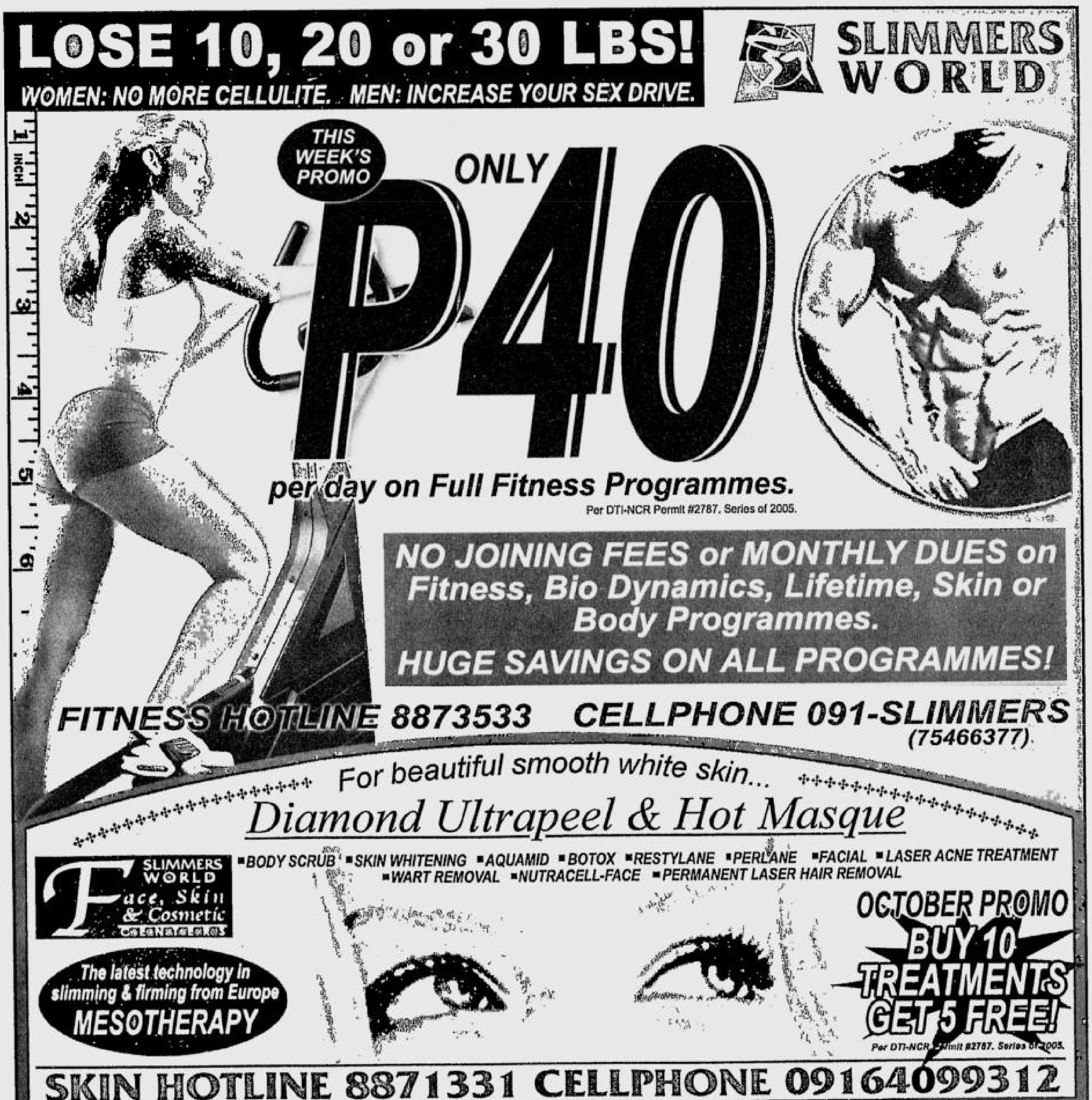

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New code may improve bank service

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

CONSUMERS WHO TRUST THEIR hard-earned money to the banks should expect good service. But, if we go by some of the complaints sent to this column, banks often fail to satisfy customers.

Well, there's good news! The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) and the different banking associations have come up with a service code that covers most everything related to the delivery of banking services in the Philippines.

The Service Code for Consumer Banking in the Philippines covers several bank products and services such as: deposit, investment, credit card (allelujah!) and loans. Three main areas of consumer concerns are discussed under the following heading: Know Your Bank, Know Your Product and Know Your Security Measures.

We should get a copy of the code, if only for the information and tips it contains. The section on security measures, for example, contains information on how to prevent fraud, identity theft, and unauthorized access to personal accounts and funds.

The code has the following objectives:

- Promote transparency for clients to have better understanding of what to expect from banks and [their] products and services;
- Set minimum service standards to be observed for consumer banking practices among banks;
- Uplift and professionalize the local banking industry to world-class standards;
- Strengthen relationships between banks and clients.

It took more than a year to finalize the code. To use the words of the BSP spokesperson, "The draft version went through a meticulous year-long evaluation, and endless polishing and strengthening before the code was finally launched."

The final version of the code was formally launched last Monday by officials of BSP and the following banking associations: Bankers Association of the Philippines, Chamber of Thrift Banks, Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines, Credit Card Association of the Philippines and Bank Marketing Association of the Philippines (BMAP).

There's one fly in the ointment, though. As the BSP spokesperson explained, adherence to the code is only voluntary. In other words, banks may or may not abide by the standards of the code.

To us who, from time to time, find fault in the banking service, having a set of standards for good service is good enough, in the meantime. Our one wish, however, is for the BSP or BMAP to inform the public what banks are subscribing to the code.

So, after the launch, what's next? According to our BSP source, a series of orientation seminars for banks will be organized in the coming months by BMAP, which is seeing to it that the Code lives up to its objectives.

Banks that will abide by the code are expected to prominently display signs saying "This bank subscribes to the Service Code for Consumer Banking in the Philippines."

Bad guys in banking

Here are some complaints from our mailbox:

Billy Rose P. wrote: "There ought to be a law against telemarketers and rude credit card collectors who call offices. Where can we complain about collectors representing this particular bank (name withheld) who were rude to our officemates with unpaid credit card bills? They also leave rude messages with the operator obviously to harass and embarrass the creditor."

From Violeta H.: "I applied for a credit card in a bank, but was told that, being over 65, I was not qualified. The credit card representative also said the bank was very strict and would not accept me because I didn't have a job anymore.

"It's true that I am retired, but I also receive a pension from the US and I have a visa from the Philippine Retirement Authority (called an SRRV). Isn't this age discrimination illegal? Besides, it seems to me that the purpose of having a job is to have a steady income. What difference does it make if [income] is pension or salary?

From fellow writer-columnist Lydia Castillo: "This happened on a Saturday. I was going to withdraw money from the ATM. As a habit, I first checked my account balance. I got the tape. Then I typed in the withdrawal command, but surprise of surprises, no cash was dispensed. The only thing that came out was the transaction tape with the withdrawal already encoded.

"When I called the bank, I was told by a certain Grace that it would take three days to return the undispensed amount to my account. The following Monday, I talked to another person at the bank. He was unpleasant, did not bother to apologize and considered the case closed after telling me to wait until late that day for the error to be corrected."

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HIGH on Coffee special

How about afternoon coffee?

THE TWO TRADITIONS OF AFTERNOON TEA and coffee drinking have been combined in one experience as Segafredo Zanetti Espresso Bar unveils its High on Coffee special at Greenbelt 2, Ayala Center, Makati from 2-5 p.m.

The High on Coffee set consists of a two-tiered platter containing savory canapés and sweets, and is served with espresso Americano or a pot of tea for two.

On the sweet plate are sweet puffs with flaky biscuit crust and custard filling; blueberry cream cheese tarts; almond crescents made of sugar biscuit dough and topped with slivers of almonds; napolitian chocolates; and rum balls. These fudgy, rum-soaked chocolate cake balls have bits of nuts in them and are coated with a chocolate marble glaze.

The savory plate consists of smoked salmon canapés with onion garlic dressing; crab salad finger sandwiches with egg mayonnaise and topped with roe; bacon tidbits dressed with sour cream and served over a slice of cucumber and bread; herbed quiche; and pan-grilled chicken teriyaki rolls wrapped in whole wheat bread.

Good for two, the High on Coffee special is available at the reasonable price of P295.

Going for the gold

From page C4

- Chalazae—the thick, cord-like strands of egg white attached to two sides of the yolk and anchor it to the center of the egg. The more prominent the chalazae, the fresher the egg.
- Eggs must always be refrigerated. When stored at room temperature, they lose more quality in one day than in a week in the refrigerator.
- Eggs easily absorb odors so keep them away from strong-smelling substances.

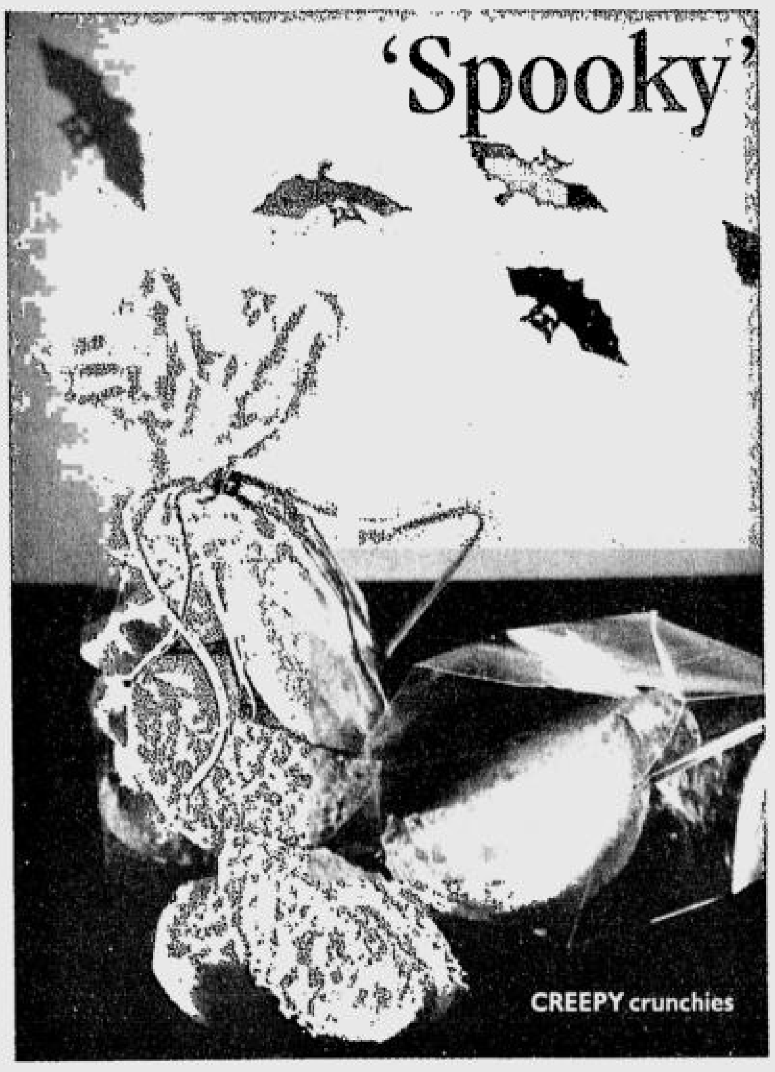
Cooking eggs

- Scrambled: Crack eggs in a bowl, beat slightly, add salt, pepper and herbs if you wish. I like adding a bit of acid—vinegar or lemon juice. I like the slight curdling it does to my eggs. Then, after cooking, I add a bit of cream and do a quick whisk. The addition of both acid and cream does wonders to the consistency. The secret to scrambled eggs is slow cooking over low heat. Use a heat-proof rubber spatula to move the eggs. Use a bit of oil or butter and take the eggs off from the heat when they are just about set, leaving them a bit underdone so they don't dry up.

To be continued next week.

For comments or suggestions, text 0917-8399888.

‘Spooky’ treats for Halloween


CREEPY crunchies

PREPARE “SPOOK”-TACULAR goodies for little trick-and-treaters this Halloween.

San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center shares these recipes to feed hungry little tomb raiders and ghost busters.

For other recipes, visit www.mygreatfood.com or send a self-addressed stamped envelope to San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center, Legazpi cor Eagle Streets, Barrio Ugong, Pasig City.

Tombstone nuggets

1 pack Magnolia Chicken Nuggets
2 c Magnolia Nutri Oil
¼ c barbecue sauce (store-bought)
Pineapple tidbits, cherries, tomato slices for garnishing

Heat Magnolia Nutri Oil in a wok. Deep-fry chicken nuggets in hot oil. Skewer nuggets with toothpick and garnish with pineapple tidbits, cherries and tomato slices. Serve with barbecue sauce.

Makes 4 servings.

Bloody spaghetti

1 tbsp Dari Crème
1 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
1 tbsp minced garlic
1/3 c chopped onions
2 tsp Spanish paprika
1 pack Monterey Lucban Longanisa, casings removed and filling mashed
¼ c tomato sauce
½ tsp salt
200 g spaghetti
¼ c grated Magnolia Quickmelt Cheese

Cook pasta according to package directions. Drain and set aside.

Heat Dari Crème margarine and olive oil in a small saucepan. Sauté garlic and onions. Add paprika and Monterey Lucban Longanisa. Mix well and cook for a few minutes over medium heat. Add tomato sauce and season with salt. Cook, stirring for two minutes then remove from heat. Pour sauce over cooked pasta. Top with grated cheese.

Makes 4 servings.

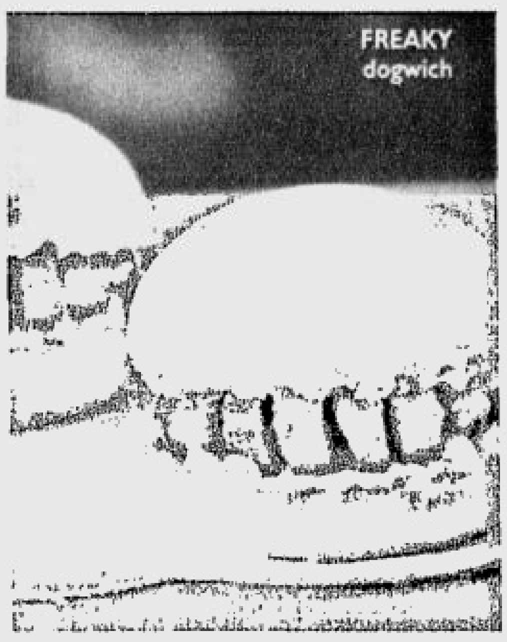
Creepy crunchies

10 pcs *pandesal*
½ c Star Sweet Blend Margarine
½ c condensed milk

Slice *pandesal* into quarters. Set aside. Melt Star margarine. Dip pandesal and brush with condensed milk. Place in an oven toaster and cook until crisp and golden in color.

Let cool and wrap in cellophane bags for giveaways.

Makes 40 pieces.


FREAKY dogwich

Freaky dogwich

2 tbsp Magnolia Nutri Oil
10 pcs Purefoods TJ Regular Hotdogs
10 pcs *pandesal*
½ c Star Mantekeso

Pan-fry Purefoods TJ hotdogs in oil. Set aside.*

Slice *pandesal* into two. Spread split side with Star Mantekeso. Top with cooked hotdogs. Cover with the other half of *pandesal* to make a sandwich.

Makes 10 sandwiches.

*You may also slice hotdogs to achieve a spiral look.

Time to go ‘tweek n tweeting’

THIS HALLOWEEN, LET YOUR kids go on a “Tweek ‘n’ Tweet,” Oct. 29-31, at Bubba Gump. They will have a great time with Bubba Gump’s kiddie food favorites like Mama Gump’s Chicken Strips, Lil’ Forrest’s Favorite Fish & Chips, Bus Bench Burgers, and an assortment of Ping Pong Pizzas.

As a Halloween treat, kids can order a new kiddie party plate which includes spaghetti, Hubba Bubba Fried Shrimps with fries, a slice of Ham and Cheese Ping Pong Pizza, Halloween sweets.

Kids with the best Halloween costumes will also get treats. A magician and a balloon artist will do fun Halloween “tweeks” for kids 12 noon-2 p.m. and 5-7 p.m.

Big “kids” who come in costumes Saturday to Monday will get a free Bloody Mary, a must-try Bubba Gump specialty Alabama Sunrise.

Bubba Gump is at 2/L Greenbelt 3 (near the fountain). Call 7575154.

I'm just a Little Star
“TWEEK or Tweet” at Bubba Gump, whether it’s Halloween or a birthday party, is a scream.

Celebrate Halloween and get freebies

CHINESE Monk gives a free Kiddie Meal with every adult meal ordered to all kids who come in any Halloween attire. The restaurant has prepared special loot bags, toys, candies and balloons for children who’ll visit the place. Chinese Monk is located at Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati. Call 8974129.

BURGOO American Bar and Restaurant celebrates Halloween on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 by giving away free balloons and loot bags full of toys and candies to all kids who come in any Halloween attire. Burgoo is located at Tomas Morato, QC; Power Plant Mall, Makati; The Podium, Ortigas Center; The Promenade, San Juan; Gateway Mall, QC. Call 9277424/ 8981815/ 6875254.

Shakey's
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SHAKEY’S brings the Crrunch Feast promo, available until Nov. 14, for a crunchy Halloween season. Families can enjoy the Crrunch for four with a large thin-crust Pepperoni Crunch Pizza, four pieces of Chicken N Mojos, four drinks of choice, and four Nestlé Crunch chocolates. Couples can have the Crrunch for two with a regular thin crust Pepperoni Crunch pizza, two pieces of Chicken N Mojos and two drinks of choice. Shakey’s will also give out three P30,000 prizes and a giant pizza for every pizza of the month purchase. Text Shakeys 30 to 2966. The promo is valid in all Shakey’s restaurants nationwide. Shakey’s continues to give great food, great value and great service because “Nothing Shakes like Shakey’s.” For delivery, dial 5338000.

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Per DTI NCR Permit No. 2226, Series of 2005.

Going for the gold in Singapore

HAIL TO THE TEAM! (Back) Ernie Babaran, Othmar Frei, Virgilio Timola, Bobby Castillo, Myrna Segismundo, Ariel Manuel, Norbert Gandler, J. Gamboa. (Front) Jojo Cutamora, Jaime de Vera, Arnold Guevarra, Humphrey Navarro

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

WE JUST celebrated World Chef's Day last Oct. 20, and what a blast it was. We always look forward to occasions when we can come together, share the same passion and love for food and celebrate the profession that has been kind to us.

While dining on Humphrey's creations—P45 Sampler (Duck Liver Pate with Grape Confit, Fresh Buffalo Mozzarella, Smoked Duck Breast, Wild Cranberry Cream, Fresh Greens in Raspberry Truffle Dressing), Cappuccino of Rock Oyster with Champagne Froth, Prosciutto Wrapped Bobby Veal Tenderloin, Creamed Chantrelle and Hazelnut Crusted Veal Sweetbread, finishing off with Scharffenberger Chocolate Pudding with Peanut Butter, Tropical Fruit and Vanilla Ice Cream—we could not help but talk about the Food Hotel Asia (FHA) 2006 Culinary Challenge, April 25-28, 2006, in Singapore.

During the course of the evening, Les Toques Blanches Philippines' Othmar Frei and J. Gamboa proudly announced the members of the Philippine national team: the country's finest chefs—Ernie Babaran (ISCAHM), Ariel Manuel (Lolo Dad's Café), Virgilio Timola (Makati Shangri-La Hotel), Arnold Guevarra (Mandarin Oriental), Jojo Cutamora (Makati Shangri-La Hotel), Jaime de Vera (Makati Shangri-La Hotel), with Humphrey Navarro (P45) as team captain and Norbert Gandler (ISCAHM) as team manager.

We have great confidence in our elite squad and are certain that their participation will be prominently felt by the other national teams from all over the world. However, we need financial support for their requirements such as travel, equipment and logistics. As we encourage you to foster the cause, we also encourage you to share the dream. Perhaps, through food, the Philippines will be great again. Here's to going for the gold in Singapore in 2006!

For sponsorship, contact Othmar Frei (8403771) and J. Gamboa (8108735).

Must-have

Time and again, people have sent me text messages about the Joy Charcoal Stove I featured some months ago. This one I think is a must-have in all households now more than ever. Joy works wonders; the charcoal lasts four hours. It's smokeless and great for stewing and long hours of cooking. Contact Raul and Joy Mendiola (4542040, 0919-3775294/0917-467-4798/0920-817-3236).

Egg-spert help

Most of the time I cook for myself. And I like eggs. Can you give me tips on cooking perfect hard-boiled eggs? And also for good omelet?

Single guy

Here it is, Mr. Single Guy, and you don't just get hard-boiled but everything else, including some tall tales as well! Enjoy!

The egg came before the chicken, it seems. The Egyptians believe the god Ptah created the egg from the sun and the moon. The Chinese believe that in the beginning, neither Heaven nor Earth existed. There was only egg-shaped chaos. From the egg-shaped chaos a giant was born called "P'an Ku." "Yin," the heavy dark yolk of the egg-shaped chaos, fell and became the Earth. "Yang," the light white part of the egg-shaped chaos, became the Sky.

The Phoenicians thought a primeval egg split open to form heaven and earth while American Indians thought the Great Spirit burst forth from a giant golden egg to create the world. But however the egg came to be is not as important as the fact that it remains a favorite indulgence.

More on eggs:

- 1 large egg, the yolk contains 5 g total fat, 2 g saturated fatty acids, 213 mg cholesterol, and 60 calories. Egg white contains 15 calories. The American Heart Association recommends limiting cholesterol consumption to 300 mg a day.

GOING/ C2

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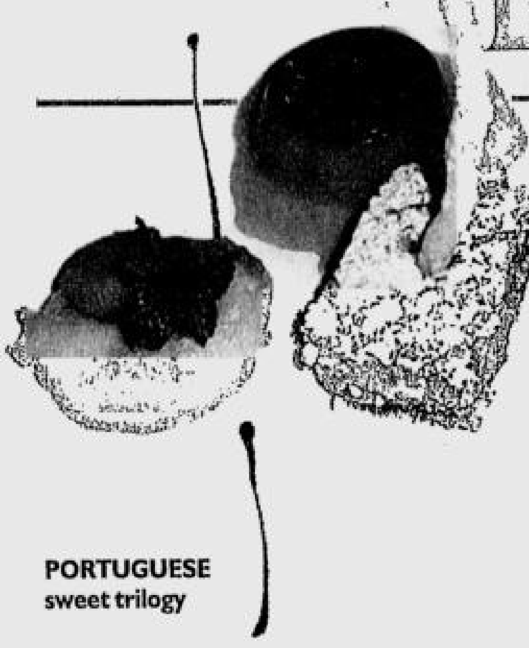

PORTUGUESE sweet trilogy

Developing gastronomy can mean modernizing the way traditional food is presented

By Michaela Fenix
Contributor

HOTEL EVENTS ARE usually one's link to cooking from other countries. Chefs are invited for a festival or hired mainly to cook the food of their respective country.

Like many events, the opportunity to taste is for a limited time. And so, unfortunately, the cooking of Portuguese chef Luis Americo Teixeira has come and gone. But a report on the experience should be done if only to cite what was learned during the tasting.

Teixeira's resume is impressive. He was chosen as Portuguese chef of 2004, an annual competition that pits different chefs cooking Portugal's dishes. He is owner of the restaurant Quinta do Pendao and is partner and pastry chef of Foz Velha Restaurant.

Even better, he doesn't only cook but works to develop the cooking of north Portugal through the association Circulo do Norte, of which he is vice president.

Developing gastronomy can mean modernizing the way traditional food is presented. And this was obvious in the first course, gazpacho served as a chilled pudding instead of the usual cold soup. It was cool and refreshing and maintained that gazpacho taste with shrimps and a vinaigrette sauce.

Back to the traditional, Portuguese green cabbage soup came next. Maybe my plaint was heard because this was the first festival where I tasted this famous *caldo verde*. The soup was enhanced by the equally famous and flavorful Portuguese sausage.

When Chef Teixeira was asked if he brought in the kale, the necessary green vegetable ingredient, he said he used a local vegetable that none of the kitchen staff could identify. What the Portuguese chef did was to have the greens added last and only when the broth was thoroughly done.

Octopus fillets were combined with caramelized onions and potatoes in an olive oil and garlic sauce. Very simple and yet so flavorful and familiar. Octopus should be part of our seafood repertoire, too, considering that the eight-tentacled creature abounds in our waters. But as it is, the only place I can satisfy my octopus hankering is in a Korean restaurant.

We were served Portuguese wines with every dish, starting with a *vinho verde* (why Portuguese love the color green wasn't answered) from Casal Garcia. White was a Quinta de Aveledeca 2004. And, for the meat course, it was a Charamba Douro 2001.

The meat course was sliced beef tournedos with a sauce that tasted faintly of vinegar. It was identified as a Mirandesa sauce from the north of Portugal. That gave us a taste of what flavor was preferred by people in the north. It also reinforced my view that our taste is strangely closer to the Portuguese than the Spanish.

Our dessert plate afforded three tastings. The Abbot of Priscos' Pudding was a mixture of

AN INTERNATIONAL/ D4

DISHES awaiting tasting at the Spices kitchen

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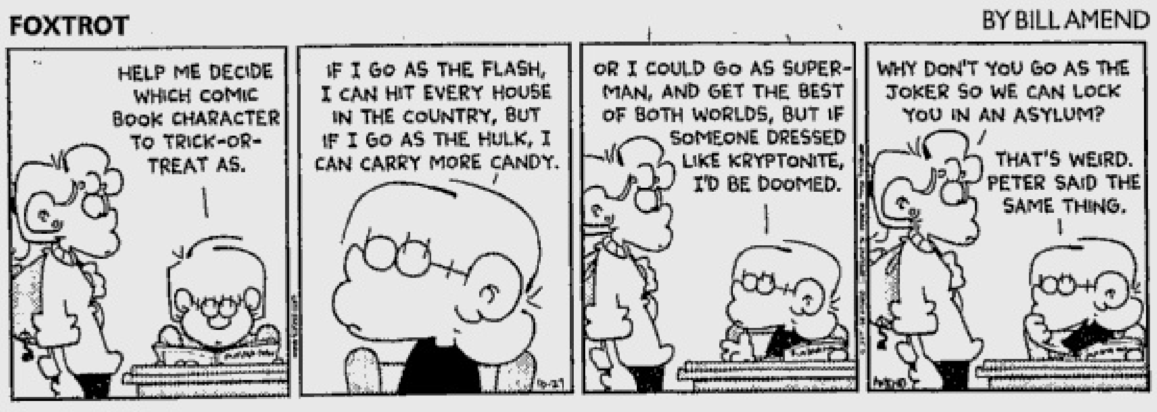
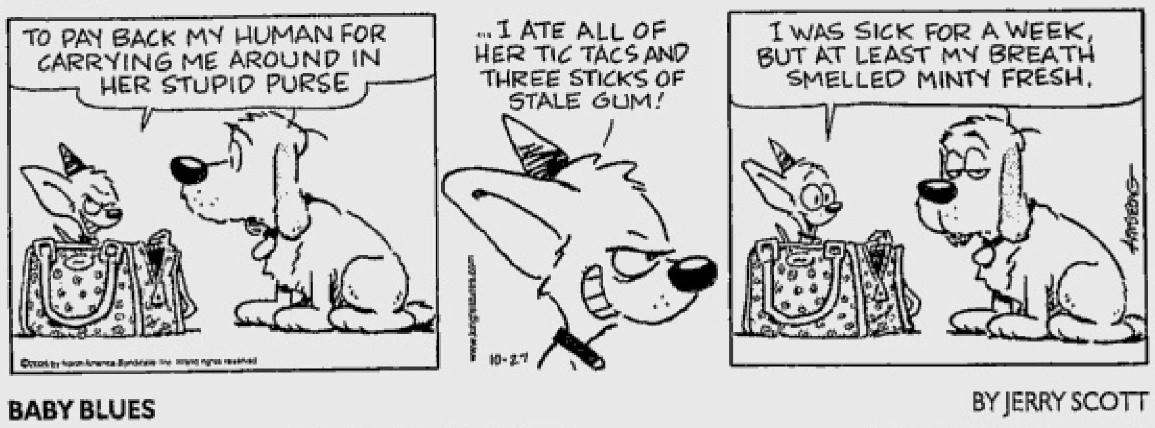
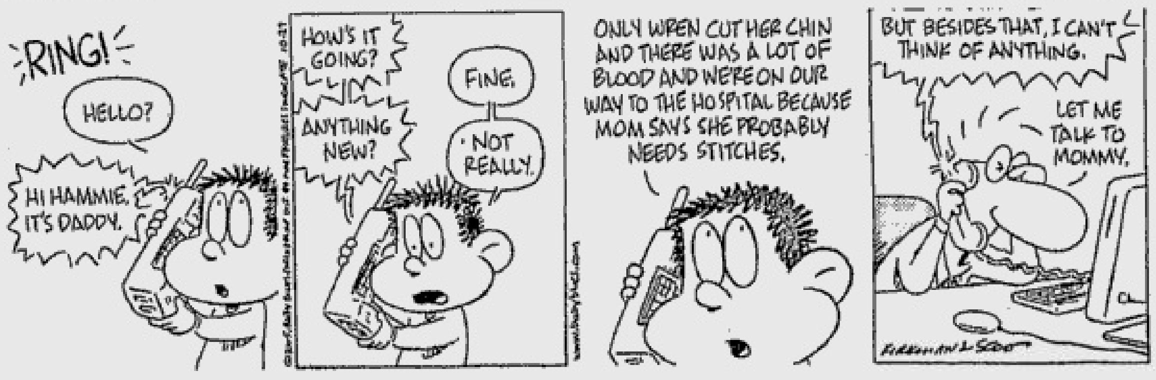
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


HELP ME DECIDE WHICH COMIC BOOK CHARACTER TO TRICK-OR-TREAT AS.
IF I GO AS THE FLASH, I CAN HIT EVERY HOUSE IN THE COUNTRY, BUT IF I GO AS THE HULK, I CAN CARRY MORE CANDY.
OR I COULD GO AS SUPERMAN, AND GET THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS, BUT IF SOMEONE DRESSED LIKE KRYPTONITE, I'D BE DOOMED.
WHY DON'T YOU GO AS THE JOKER SO WE CAN LOCK YOU IN AN ASYLUM?
THAT'S WEIRD. PETER SAID THE SAME THING.

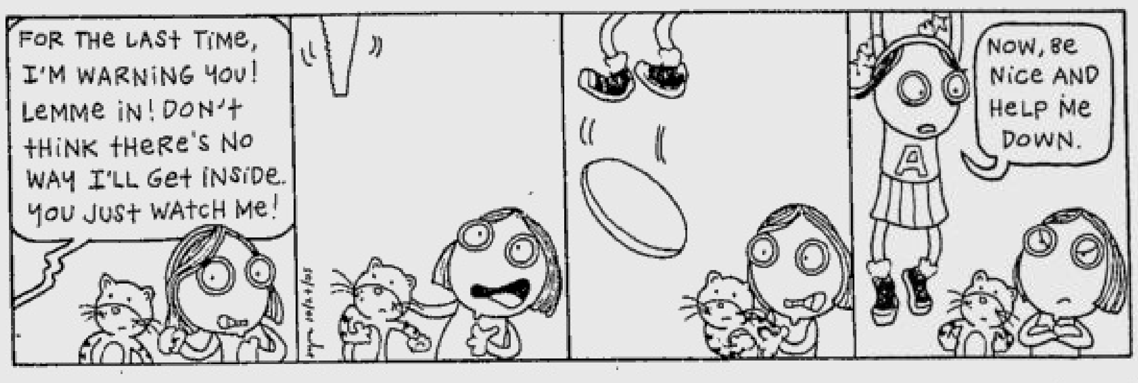
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


TO PAY BACK MY HUMAN FOR CARRYING ME AROUND IN HER STUPID PURSE
...I ATE ALL OF HER TIC TACS AND THREE STICKS OF STALE GUM!
I WAS SICK FOR A WEEK, BUT AT LEAST MY BREATH SMELLED MINTY FRESH.
10-27

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


RING!
HELLO?
HI HAMMIE, IT'S DADDY.
HOW'S IT GOING?
FINE.
ANYTHING NEW?
NOT REALLY.
ONLY WREN CUT HER CHIN AND THERE WAS A LOT OF BLOOD AND WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO THE HOSPITAL BECAUSE MOM SAYS SHE PROBABLY NEEDS STITCHES.
BUT BESIDES THAT, I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING.
LET ME TALK TO MOMMY.

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


FOR THE LAST TIME, I'M WARNING YOU! LEMME IN! DON'T THINK THERE'S NO WAY I'LL GET INSIDE. YOU JUST WATCH ME!
A
NOW, BE NICE AND HELP ME DOWN.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're witty, fun-loving and energetic. People love you. But you're no fool. In fact, you're shrewd. Your ambition and perseverance are quite amazing. The year ahead might be one of the best years of your life. Expect a miracle. Don't be afraid to go after whatever you want.
Birthdate of: John Cleese, actor; Fran Lebowitz, writer; Ruby Dee, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is an excellent day at work. The resources of others are available to you. (Everyone shows up for work!) This evening, a curious health issue might arise. (Nothing serious.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Today's Moon is in Virgo, your fellow Earth sign. This bodes well for you! All your dealings with others will go smoothly. Parents should be vigilant about childhood accidents late in the day.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Things go beautifully at work today. In large measure, this is because of your optimistic, positive attitude. People are attracted to anyone who is upbeat!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Your creative vibes are hot today. Not only that, you feel flirtatious and playful. This is a good day for financial speculation, working in the arts and dealing with children.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Real estate deals are profitable today! In fact, everything to do with home, family and your domestic life can prosper. Watch out for money loss late in the day.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): It's a busy day. Don't stay at home. Get out and run errands, do tasks, take care of shopping matters. Reading, writing and studying will go well.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Today starts off friendly and upbeat. However, by evening you can expect surprises with partners and close friends. (Nothing big—but stay on your toes.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is a very fortunate time for you! The Sun, Mercury and Jupiter are in your sign. In addition, Saturn is finally at the top of your chart for the first time in 29 years.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): What you need right now is more solitude, peace and quiet. Therefore, work alone if you can. Your ability to research material and delve into things is excellent.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Schmooze with others today. Talk to groups, associations and friends. Be careful this evening, because a mild accident influence is present.

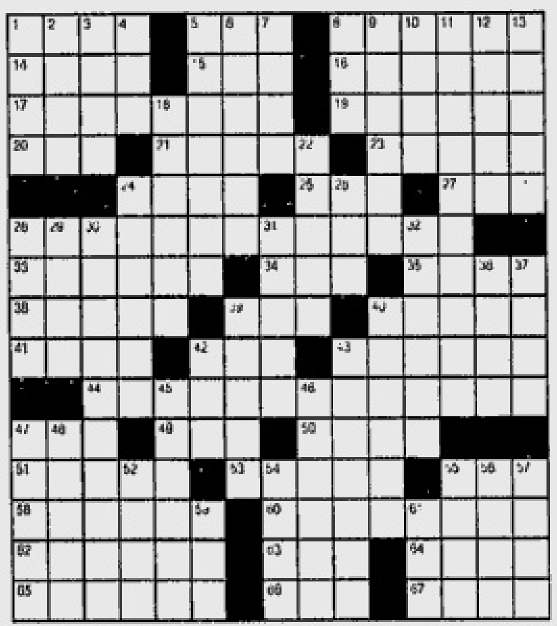
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is an excellent day to talk to parents, bosses and authority figures in your life. They will be surprisingly receptive to your requests. Late in the day, the opposite is the case.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a good day for travel plans or to promote ideas related to publishing and the media. Be patient with cranky partners late in the day. (Sometimes you're cranky, too.)

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 French cleric
5 NBC classic
8 James of "Wall Street"
14 Clarified fat
15 London W.C.
16 __ borealis
17 Start of Evan Esar quote
19 Sort of street
20 Rebellion leader Turner
21 Commutes
23 Oncle's wife
24 Wise
25 Afore
27 Up-to-date, for short
28 Part 2 of quote
33 Amen!
34 Actress Lupino
35 Composer Thomas
38 Tall stories
39 Florida component
40 Haas of "Witness"
41 "Mockingbird" singer Foxx
42 Singer DiFranco
43 Unassuming
44 Part 3 of quote
47 Abu Dhabi loc.
49 Very wide shoe
50 Alts in the Seine
51 Tool for evening
53 Turner and Cantrell
55 Pouchlike structure
58 Hair dressing
60 End of quote
62 Activate
63 French friend
64 Swivel
65 More crowded
66 Hamsun novel
67 Aid a criminal



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA
10/27/05

DOWN

1 King of comedy
2 Lower California
3 Very dry, as champagne
4 Hall of famer Roush
5 __ of hand
6 Beats me
7 Attain also-ran status
8 __ Paulo
9 Kicked away
10 Vicinity
11 Bear's expectation
12 Muse of poetry
13 Shot out beams
18 Complimentary
22 Rundown
24 Reaction to ragweed
26 Genetic letters
28 Italian wine region
29 Lamenting sound
30 Sailor
31 Connect
32 Some Middle Easterners
36 Writer Ogden
37 Como __ Usted?
39 Prepare to crawl
40 Most underhanded
42 Had lunch
43 Skin pigment
45 Pointer
46 Movies
47 Bet more
48 Stag
52 Captures
54 Quickly please!
55 Rebuff
56 Land measure
57 Lincoln coin
59 Pamphlet ending?
61 Greek letter

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

A	L	L	E	N	■	C	O	R	E	■	S	H	I	P
N	A	I	L	S	■	A	R	A	L	■	L	O	L	A
T	H	R	O	W	I	N	T	H	E	T	O	W	E	L
I	R	A	Q	■	B	O	S	■	P	A	G	E	R	S
■	■	■	U	L	E	E	■	C	H	I	A	■	■	■
R	E	P	E	A	T	■	C	H	A	■	N	C	A	A
E	V	E	N	T	■	A	L	O	N	E	■	O	N	S
G	E	T	T	H	E	L	A	S	T	L	A	U	G	H
I	R	R	■	E	N	D	U	E	■	A	N	N	I	E
S	T	O	P	■	D	A	S	■	S	T	A	T	E	S
■	■	■	A	S	P	S	■	C	H	E	T	■	■	■
S	P	A	R	T	A	■	S	R	O	■	H	I	F	I
P	I	C	K	U	P	T	H	E	P	I	E	C	E	S
I	N	R	E	■	E	V	A	S	■	S	M	E	L	L
N	E	E	R	■	R	A	G	S	■	P	A	S	T	E

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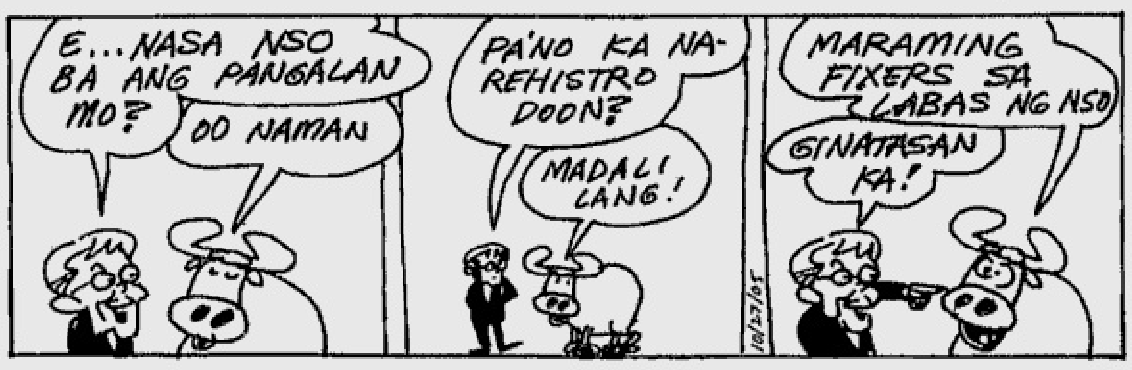
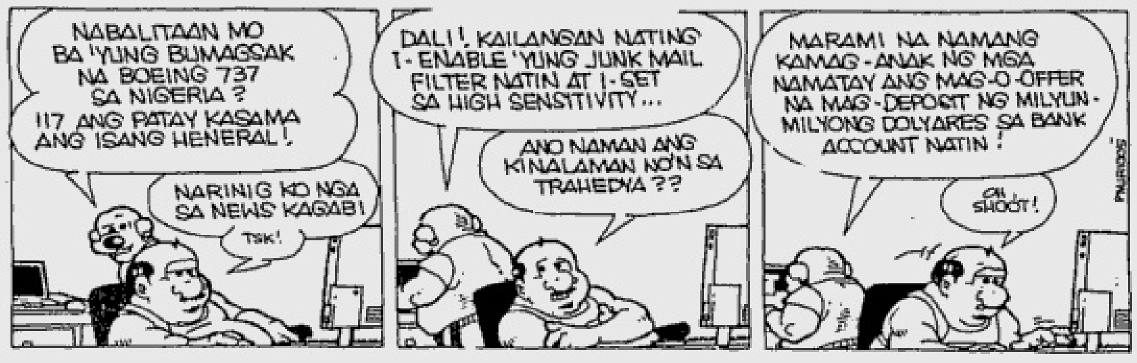
10/27/05

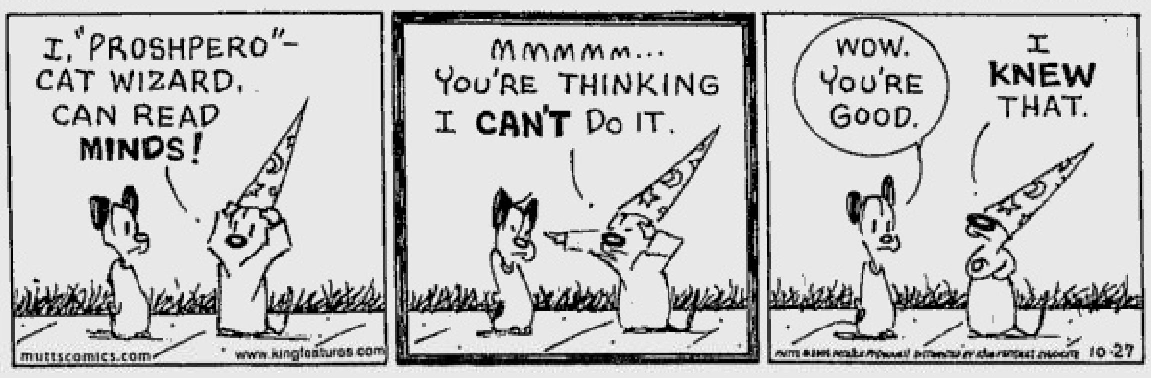
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


E...NASA NSO BA ANG PANGALAN MO?
OO NAMAN
PA'NO KA NAREHISTRO DOON?
MADALI LANG!
10/27/05
MARAMING FIXERS SA LABAS NG NSO
GINATASAN KA!

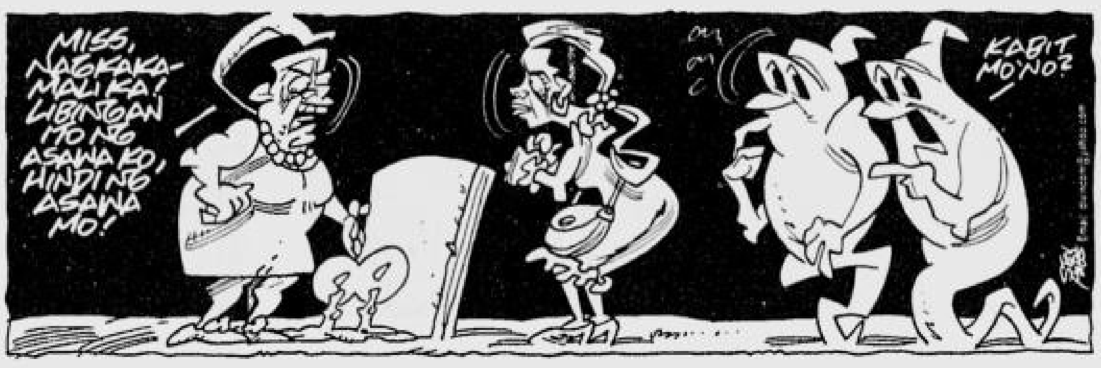
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


NABALITAAN MO BA 'YUNG BUMAGSAK NA BOEING 737 SA NIGERIA? 117 ANG PATAY KASAMA ANG ISANG HENERAL!
NARINIG KO NGA SA NEWS KAGABI
TSK!
DALI!, KAILANGAN NATING I-ENABLE 'YUNG JUNK MAIL FILTER NATIN AT I-SET SA HIGH SENSITIVITY...
ANO NAMAN ANG KINALAMAN NO'N SA TRAHEDYA??
MARAMI NA NAMANG KAMAG-ANAK NG MGA NAMATAY ANG MAG-O-OFFER NA MAG-DEPOSIT NG MILYUN-MILYONG DOLYARES SA BANK ACCOUNT NATIN!
OH SHOOT!

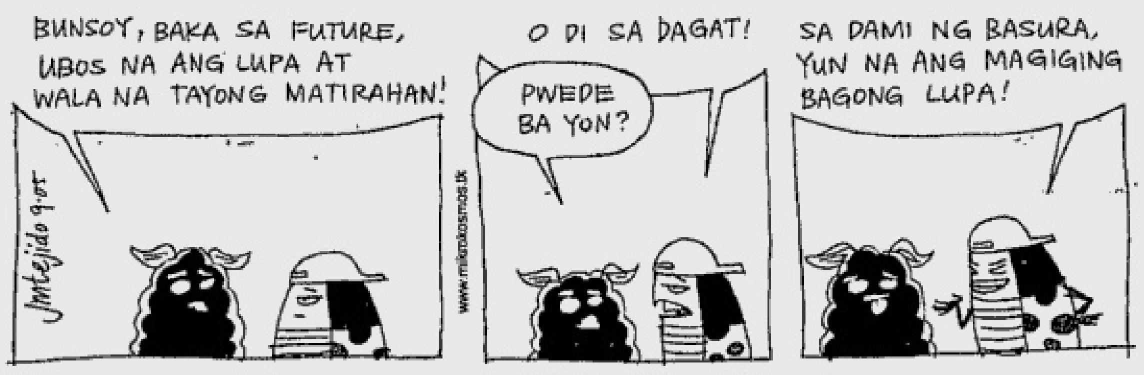
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I, "PROSHPERO"– CAT WIZARD, CAN READ MINDS!
MMMMM... YOU'RE THINKING I CAN'T DO IT.
WOW. YOU'RE GOOD.
I KNEW THAT.
muttscomics.com
www.kingfeatures.com
10-27

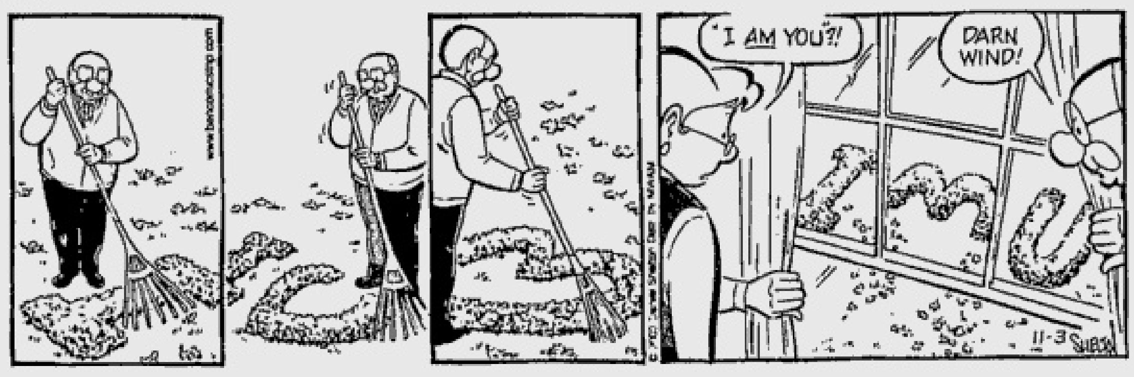
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


MISS, NAGKAKAMALI KA! LIBINGAN ITO NG ASAWA KO, HINDI NG ASAWA MO!
KABIT MO 'NO?

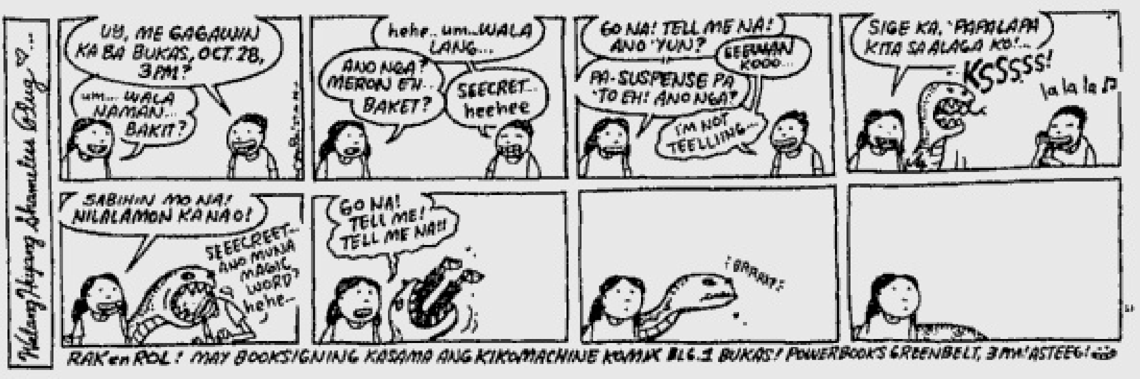
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


BUNSOY, BAKA SA FUTURE, UBOS NA ANG LUPA AT WALA NA TAYONG MATIRAHAN!
O DI SA DAGAT!
PWEDE BA YON?
SA DAMI NG BASURA, YUN NA ANG MAGIGING BAGONG LUPA!
www.mikrokosmos.tk

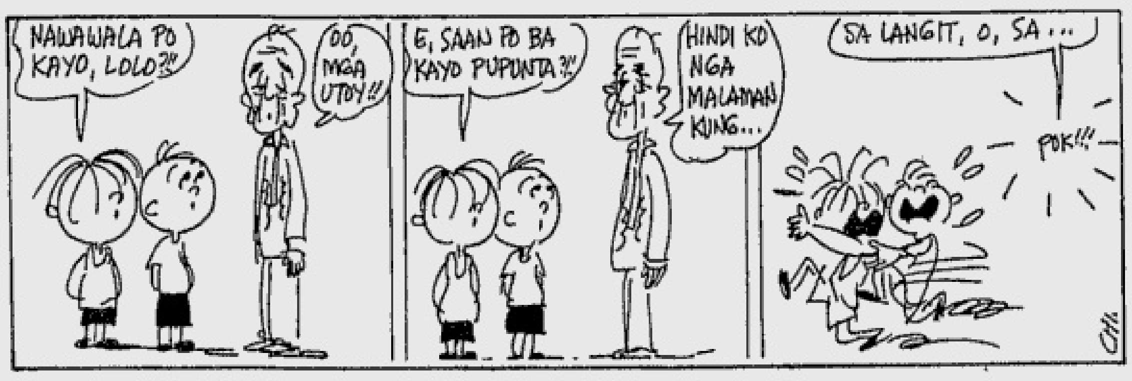
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


"I AM YOU"?!
DARN WIND!
11-3

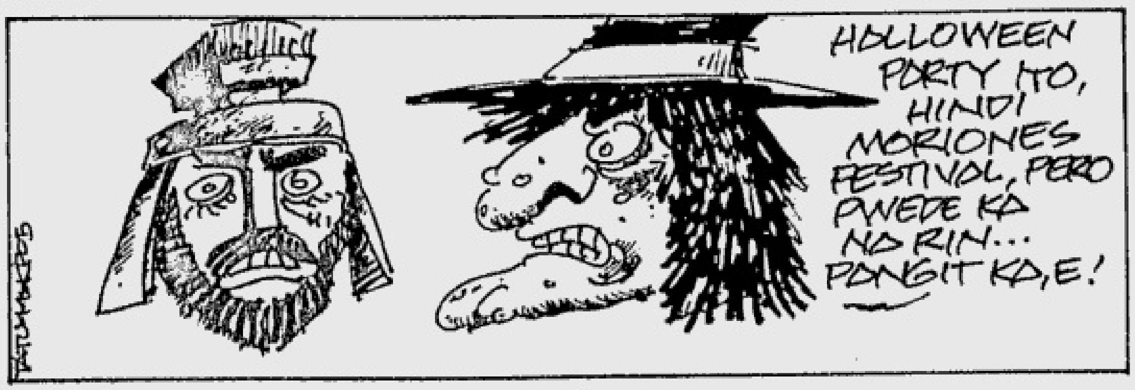
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


Walang Hiyang Shameless Plug
UY, ME GAGAWIN KA BA BUKAS, OCT. 28, 3PM?
UM... WALA NAMAN... BAKIT?
hehe.. um...WALA LANG...
ANO NGA? MERON EH... BAKET?
SEECRET... heehee
GO NA! TELL ME NA! ANO 'YUN?
SEEKWAN KOOO...
PA-SUSPENSE PA 'TO EH! ANO NGA?
I'M NOT TEELLING...
SIGE KA, 'PAPALAPA KITA SA ALAGA KO!...
KSSSSS!
la la la
SABIHIN MO NA! NILALAMON KA NA O!
SEEECREET... ANO MUNA MAGIC WORD? hehe...
GO NA! TELL ME! TELL ME NA!!
BRRAAP!
RAK en ROL! MAY BOOKSIGNING KASAMA ANG KIKOMACHINE KOMIX BLG.1 BUKAS! POWERBOOKS GREENBELT, 3PM! ASTEEG!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NAWAWALA PO KAYO, LOLO?!!
OO, MGA UTOY!!
E, SAAN PO BA KAYO PUPUNTA?!!
HINDI KO NGA MALAMAN KUNG...
SA LANGIT, O, SA...
POK!!!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


HALLOWEEN PARTY ITO, HINDI MORIONES FESTIVAL, PERO PWEDE KA NA RIN... PANGIT KA, E!

GET HOOKED, grilled lobster tail and pan-fried Chilean sea bass with lemon butter cream, and Montes Pinot Noir

DROVER'S Plate, fillet of beef and Australian lamb chop with mushroom peppercorn sauce, is paired with Montes Cabernet Reserve.

Wining and (casual) dining

Outback Restaurant suggests it's time for Pinoys to think beyond soda and iced tea when eating out

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Roger Carpio

WHEN FILIPINOS EAT out, rarely do they think of wine to complement their food.

Outback Restaurant thinks it's time to have wine even for casual dining. Good old standbys like soda, iced tea and beer may be refreshing, but wine can make a good meal even more special.

So Outback's branches in Glorietta, Libis and Alabang Town Center are making available wines for casual dining occasions.

The wines are of moderate cost and recent vintage, but with distinctive tastes. There is a wide variety of wines to suit every diner's taste.

'Wine flights'

As part of its ongoing wine promotion, Outback presents Wine Walkabout featuring "wine flights." Popularized in the United States, the concept involves different wines in two-ounce quantities and sold as a set. Diners will have the pleasure of tasting and comparing several wines without having to pay for a glass, much less a bottle, if they want to try different kinds.

Choices include cabernet sauvignon, shiraz, merlot and a table red.

For instance, if you like a classic cabernet (P255), you can have a two-ounce glass each from Hardys Varietal Range, Wolf Blass Eaglehawk and Linkeman's Bin 45. On offer for shiraz (P355) are Oxford Landing, Penfolds Rawson's Retreat and Wolf Blass Red Label.

Merlot drinkers (P455) can try Hardys Varietal Range, Rosemount Estate and Wolf Blass Yellow Label.

"In short, you can have three kinds of wines for the price of one glass," says Ed de los Reyes, Outback operating partner. "With the Wine Walkabout promo [you can] compare wines [and] educate your palate and discover how each wine in a 'flight' changes the flavor of the food."

Food-and-wine pairing

To show how wines complement Outback food, the restaurant in Glorietta concocted recently an array of contemporary dishes and paired them with carefully chosen wines from Philippine Wine Merchants.

A different wine was served with each dish.

Aperitifs are supposed to get your appetite going. Thus, first to be served that evening was the Yalumba Angas Brut, which is a bit sweet, fruity yet smooth and easy to drink.

Herb Cream Mussels (fresh mussels simmered in garlic, herbs and cream) came with light-bodied and dry Wente Chardonnay 2002. Next came the Garden Fresh Caesar Salad with a glass of Wente Yalumba Unwooded Chardonnay 2004.

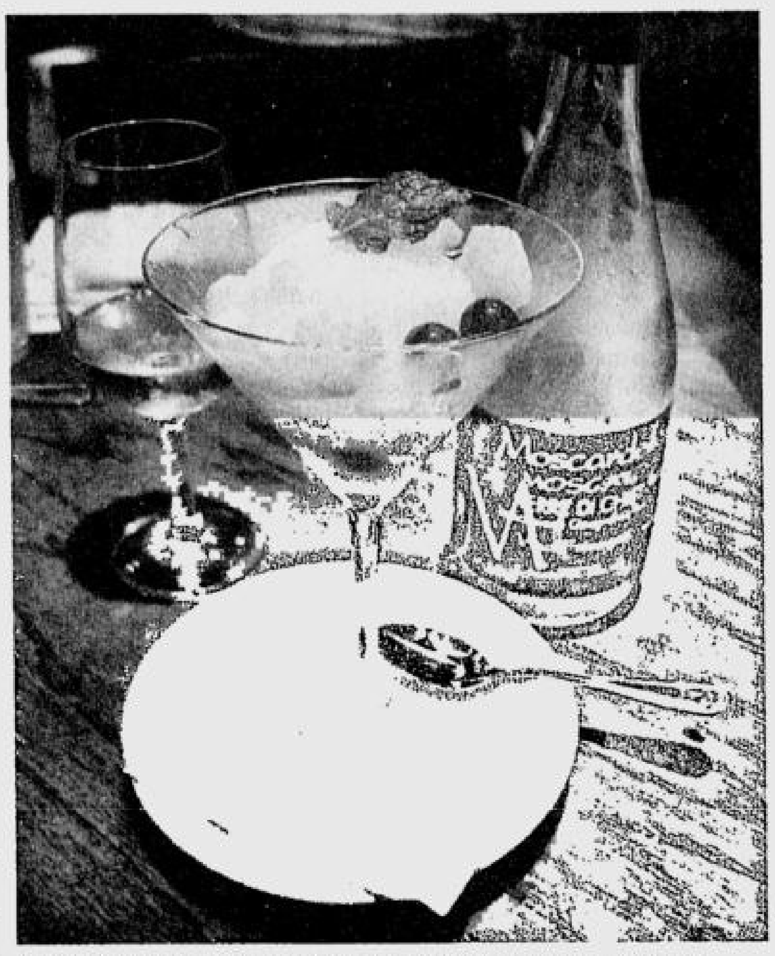
Drover's Plate (fillet of beef and Australian lamb chop with mushroom peppercorn sauce) was paired with Montes Cabernet Reserve, which has a really rich berry flavor with a hint of vanilla and cinnamon.

Montes Pinot Noir, an intense dark red, was matched with Get Hooked (grilled lobster tail and pan-fried Chilean sea bass with lemon butter cream).

To cap the wonderful meal, a refreshing fruit sherbet was served with a cool glass of Citra Moscardelli Moscato.

"Wine drinking should be fun," says De los Reyes. "We should do it because the taste makes our food more enjoyable."

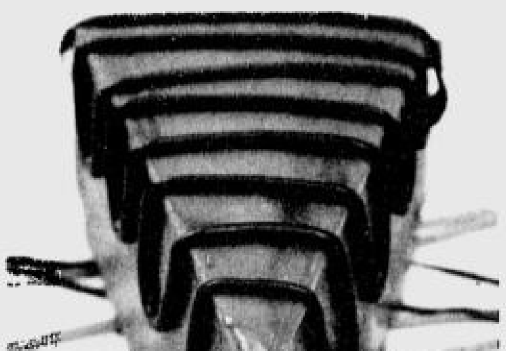
FROM left, Ralph Joseph of Philippine Wine Merchants; Ed de los Reyes, Outback operating partner; John Cu-unjieng, Bistro Group corporate chef; Ronnie Joseph and Raymund Joseph of PWM.



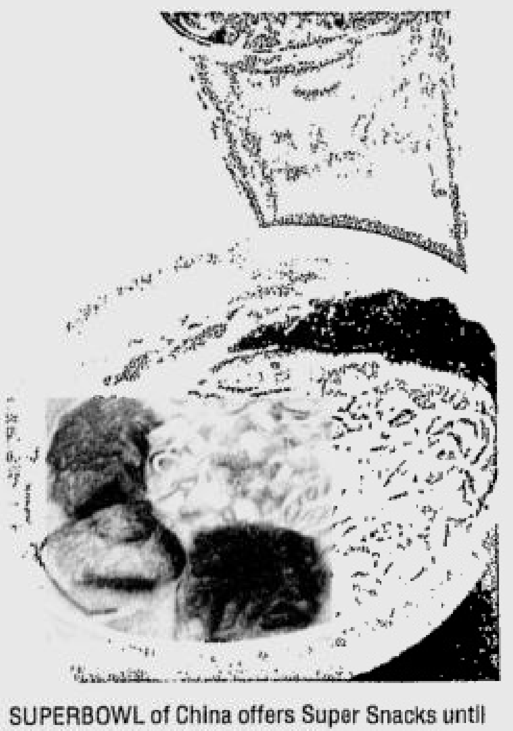
A REFRESHING fruit sherbet is served with a cool glass of Citra Moscardelli Moscato.

Hearty beef creations

DINING OUT



JACK'S Loft Dessert Bar and Restaurant features sweet treats such as Jack's Cheesecake, I Declair, Jack's Chocolate Decadent Cake, Baked New York Cheesecake, Chocolate Mousse Cheesecake, Chocolate Fantasia, Chocolate Brownie a la Mode, Grandma's Apple Pie a la Mode, Oreo Cheesecake, Tiramisu, Super Moist Chocolate Cake, Mango Mousse, Chocolate Eclair, Death by Chocolate, Biscotti, Chocolate Chunk Cookie, White Chocolate Chunk Cookie and Carrot Cake with Frosting. Jack's Loft Dessert Bar and Restaurant is located at F1 Building, Eastwood City, Citywalk, Libis, QC (4212048) and 204 Wilson St., Greenhills, San Juan (7263582)



SUPERBOWL of China offers Super Snacks until Nov. 30. It includes Almond Jelly with Mixed Fruits; Sesame Balls, Peanut Buchi or Crunchy Banana Balls; Halo-halo Congee; Mango Pudding or Mango Sago; Birthday Noodles; BBQ Pork Siopao, Pork Siomai or Wanton Noodle Soup; and Braised Beef Brisket Noodle Soup. All snacks are inclusive of a single serving of iced tea. Call 7378888.

Italianni's
It's a Celebration

ITALIANNI'S house specialties like the Angel Hair Pomodoro, Spinach and Artichoke Formaggio and Shrimp Fra Diablo are available at SM Megamall. Italianni's takes the Italian-American dining tradition a notch higher with the opening of the Gelato Corner, Panatteria and Coffee Corner. Italianni's is located in SM Megamall A, Greenbelt 2, Glorietta 4, Alabang Town Center, SM City Bicutan, Greenhills, Eastwood, Gateway Mall and Tomas Morato, QC.

THE NEW World Renaissance Hotel's Bocarinos offers Beef Classic to New until Nov. 30. The hotel also introduces Eat, Drink, Balance, which offers low-fat and low-cholesterol dishes. Featured are Asparagus Omelet with Goat's Cheese, Salmon and White Fish Carpaccio with Salmon Caviar, Red Snapper with Ginger, Lemon Grass and Sauteed Asian Greens, Mango Panna Cotta with Passion Fruit Sauce, Flourless Chocolate Cake with Raspberry Coulis. Call 8116888.

THE PENINSULA Manila's Nielsen's Restaurant features Oktoberfest until Oct. 31. The buffet offers Smoked Duck Breast on Cabbage Salad, Green Pea Soup with Bacon, Buttered Sole Fillet with Parsley and Lemon, Stuffed Suckling Pig and Black Forest Cake. Call 8872888.

THE RICHMONDE Hotel offers special Christmas banquet packages for the holidays. For as low as P25,500+ and P38,800+ for 25 guests and a grand affair for a minimum of 50 persons, you can throw a bountiful buffet feast in any of Richmonde's function rooms with delectable menu selections of soups, an assortment of appetizers, hot items and desserts, plus a round of iced tea or softdrinks for all the guests and waived corkage fee for two wine or liquor bottles. The main dishes include Pan Seared Fish Fillet with Shrimp Sauce, Beef Morcon, Fettuccini with Smoked Chicken and Sundried Tomato Cream Sauce, Roast Chicken Ajillo, Grilled Beef Tenderloin with Pommery Mustard and a lot more, with Baked Farmers Ham with Herbs and Mustard, Stuffed Pork Belly, Roast Turkey with Cranberry and Giblet Sauce, and Roast Prime Rib Au Jus as savory selections for the carving table. For additional of P5,500 net on the package for 50 persons, you can include a mouthwatering *lechon* in your banquet spread. Other freebies include a complimentary overnight stay in a superior room with buffet breakfast for two and gift certificates for a complimentary buffet lunch for two at the Grill, a complimentary Happy Hour package for two persons at the Exchange Bar, and a complimentary food and beverage voucher worth P500. Call 6387777 local 3911, 3912 or 3914.

Winning recipes in tuna competition

Century
TUNA
Flakes in Oil

GREAT FOOD ABOUND AT the 3rd Century Tuna Culinary Meet—the Tuna Asian Fusion, the two-day competition that aimed to strengthen Century Tuna's position as the No. 1 tuna in the country.

This year's finalists were chosen through rigid elimination rounds in three categories—Amateur 1, Amateur 2 and Student. All finalists prepared their qualifying recipes highlighting the use of Century Tuna in Asian fusion cuisine.

Teams composed of homemakers competed in the Amateur 1 category. Sharlene and Jessica Tan emerged as winners with their Century Tuna Golden Pouches with Chili Orange Sauce, Crispy Tuna with Mango and Mixed Green Salad and Spicy Century Tuna Pasta Thai. Second place was bagged by Belinda and David Evangelista while the third place was awarded to Caroline and Kaye Levine.

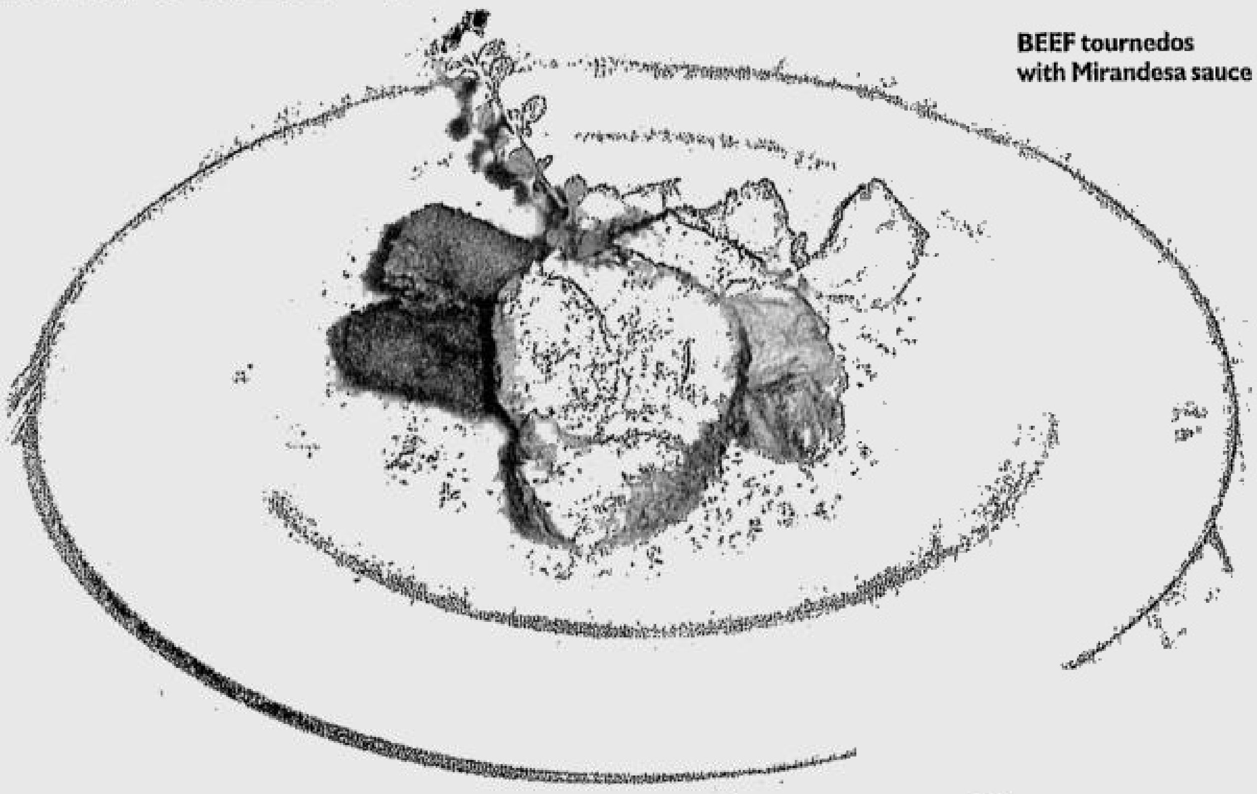
High school teams entered their best "baon" recipes using Century Tuna. Leona Eubanas of St. Scholastica's College won the top prize for her Tuna Maki Sandwich. Claret's Marc Nino Chan placed second for his Hot and Spicy Tuna Supreme Patties. Stephanie de Castro of St. Scholastica's college was third place for her Tuna Pasta.

On the final day of the competition, teams from some of the country's top universities and colleges, and the finest culinary schools competed in the student category, as well as the "Market Basket" category where they produced a meal using the ingredients in a mystery basket that was presented to them on competition day.

The Center for Culinary Arts team of Harold Punsalan, Karen Michelle Cudia and Lionel O' Hari Go emerged as the winner with their Century Tuna Croquettes with Thai Peanut Sauce, Century Tuna Vietnamese Summer Rolls with Cilantro Nuoc Cham and Century Tuna Chawan Mishi. La Consolacion's Christine Louise Alma José, Roselle Rodriguez and Ma. Elfeda Bersalado won second place while OB Montessori College's Marie Tan Imperial, Myron Ellis Nepomuceno and Shaira Shareen Salvador placed third.

The Century Tuna Culinary Meet was in partnership with Ariston, Yoshinoya, Ajinomoto, Angel Evaporada, Del Monte Fresh Cut Pineapple, Home Pride, Meyer, Moulinex, Good Life, Jolly, Gourmet Farms, Cream Cornstarch and All-Purpose Flour.

LIKE a work of art: Indian desserts



BEEF tournedos with Mirandesa sauce

An international tasting

From page D1

bacon, sugar and eggs. There were egg pillows in syrup, soft yolks cooked to perfection and not too sweet, either. And, as expected, *toucinho do céu*. It is *tocino del cielo*—heaven's bacon as we know it—a custard mixture of almond, pumpkin and egg yolks, again. The producers of these heavenly desserts were, not surprisingly, nuns in convents.

Our food guide that day, the Ambassador of Portugal and former history professor Joao Caetano da Silva, also informed us that egg whites were used by the nuns to stiffen their wimples, those hard white backing for their veils.

35 dishes

It's usual to be invited to sample the finished menu of a restaurant. But to be invited to taste what is still to be served can be an adventure.

"This is what we do" was the simple explanation of David Batchelor, general manager of The Peninsula Manila. He meant this exercise of tasting the proposed new dishes to be served at Spices, the Asian outlet of the hotel. With him were food and beverage manager Matthias Al-Amiry and executive chef Gerhard Doll.

It wasn't a sit-down event but more like a stand-up activity where we moved along the buffet line. With fork and spoon in hand, we prodded, cut and tasted, sometimes going back for a second taste just to be sure. Then we gave our comments. That way, the chefs knew which were bland, lacked spice or heat, needed presentation improvement or had great potential.

The favorites were pointed out with an okay sign that chefs universally understand. Thai chef Phaitoon Athasam and Indian chef Bairagi Sahani hang on to our every critique.

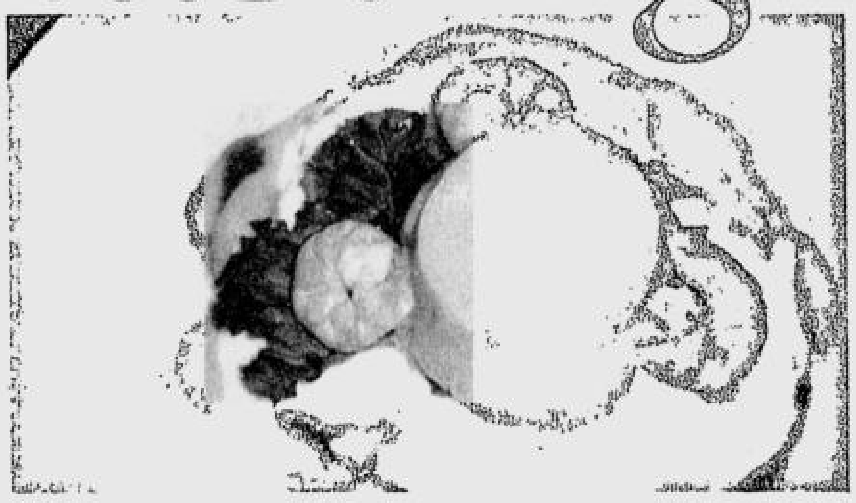
There were unexpected moments like smoke rising from the long piece of ground lamb kebab as the chef removed it from the metal skewer. We all looked at each other then laughed, everyone denying he/she was thinking of something else.

We did suggest that the chef should perhaps do the unskewering at the guest's table for a bit of culinary showmanship. It will earn laughs, I'm sure.

All in all, we tasted some 35 dishes, from appetizers to desserts, including a vegetarian menu.

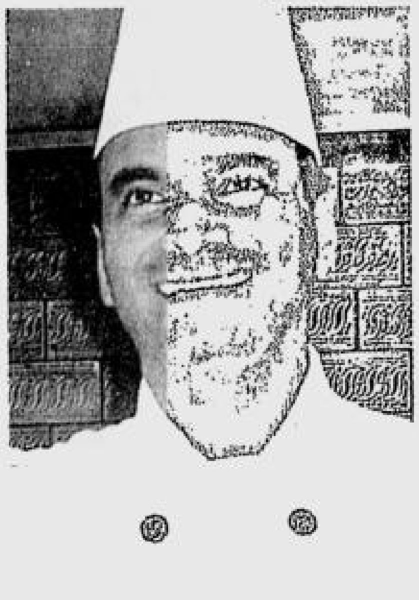
After that afternoon tasting, dinner was unthinkable.

E-mail the author at pinoyfood04@yahoo.com



A PUDDING of gazpacho

SPICES Thai chef Phaitoon Athasam



SPICES Indian chef Bairagi Sahani

CHEF Luis Americo Teixeira of Portugal

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Sylvia Reynoso-Gala

GOLD MEDALIST Academia de Gastronomos Madrid, Spain - 1964

Graduate : Full Course at Thai Cooking School, Oriental Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand
Studied in 6 cooking schools in Hongkong

ERNEST REYNOSO GALA

Graduate : Full Course at Thai Cooking School, Oriental Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand
Studied at Chopstick and Hongkong Town Gas Culinary Schools

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Leni Reynoso-Araullo

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Masters in Cake Decorating, Wilton School, Chicago, U.S.A., 1974 under Martha & Stanley Wilton
Graduate : Chicago School of Cooking and Catering
Graduate : Full Course, Thai Cooking School at the Oriental Hotel, Bangkok
Studied cooking in Europe, South America & Hongkong
Co-founder, Reynoso Cooking and Baking School, March, 1963

OCT 27 THUR 2:30 - 6:00PM - DELICIOUS DIMSUM STYLE PORK SPARERIBS: SPICY CHICKEN FEET; SHRIMPS ON TOAST, BUCHI WITH SESAME SEEDS; AUTHENTIC HONGKONG-CHINESE CONGEE WITH DIFFERENT TOPPINGS. FISH FILLET; PORK; SZECHUAN VEGETABLES; BOLA-BOLA; SHRIMP; PORK LIVER; KIDNEY; PIG-STOMACH **P1,500 BY SYLVIA**

OCT 28 FRI 2:30 - 5:30PM - DELICIOUS CHICKEN CORDON BLEU WITH CREAMY SAUCE; PAELLA NEGRA - SPICY SQUID RINGS IN GARLIC SAUCE; DEBONED LEMONY SOY CHICKEN ON WILD RICE; ORIENTAL SPRING ROLLS WITH SWEET CHILI SAUCE. EASY TIRAMISU **P1,800 BY SYLVIA**

NOV 3 & 10 THURS 2:30 - 5:30PM - P2,200 - MONEY MAKING CHOCOLATE FANTASIES COURSE (# 1 SELLER IN MANILA) CHOCOLATE - COATED POPCORNS. CREAM-FILLED CUPCAKES. STICKY WALNUT BROWNIES; CHUNKY CHOCO COOKIES; GERMAN STYLE FUDGY CAKE WITH ICING, CHOCOLATE TURTLE CHEESECAKE; SMOOTH CHOCOLATE MOUSSE; SYRUPY BROWNIES; WALNUT CRUNCH BROWNIES, NEW ROCKY ROAD BROWNIES, THE BEST MELT-IN-THE -MOUTH TIRAMISU #2 **BY ERNEST**

NOV. 4 - FRI - 2:30 - 6:15PM - LIGHT & AIRY ENSAYMADAS. CHEESEROLLS. SPECIAL EGG PANDESAL, PANDESAL W/ FILLING, CINNAMON ROLLS. BREAD BAKING MADE EASY! **P1,800. BY SYLVIA**

NOV. 5 - SAT- 2:30 - 6:00PM - POPULAR JAPANESE DISHES I. JAPANESE STYLE TENDERLOIN STEAKS WITH BELL PEPPERS, MONGO SPROUTS, WHITE ONIONS; JAPANESE MIXED RICE (KAMAMESHI); YAKITORI (CHICKEN BBQ IN SKEWERS); MISO SOUP; BREADED PORK CHOPS (TONKATSU); SUKIYAKI, CUCUMBER IN JAPANESE VINEGAR DRESSING, SWEET DRIED DILIS (APPETIZER). **P1,800. BY SYLVIA**

NOV. 7 - MON- 2:30 - 6:00PM - THAI COOKING 2. THAI CHICKEN BARBECUE, 5 SPICE BARBECUED PORK SPARERIBS, THAI CHICKEN SATAY, THAI FRIED FISH CAKES, GARLIC SQUIDS, CURRIED FISH WRAPPPED IN BANANA LEAVES. **P1,800.BY ERNEST**

NOV. 8 - TUES. - 2:30 - 6:00PM - 10 MONEY MAKING CHEWY SQUARES FOR BUSINESS OR GIFTS. WALNUT BAR, MANGO BARS, LEMON BARS, BANANA CHIP BARS PRUNE BARS, RICOA CHOCOLATE CHIP BARS, LEMONY NUT BARS, DATE NUT SQUARE AND CHOCO-MERINGUE BARS. **P1,800. BY ERNEST**

NOV. 9 - WED. - 2;30 - 6:00PM - VERY SPECIAL WELL-LOVED PILIPINO DISHES AND SWEETS 1. SUPER SARAP NA PANCIT MOLO, KARE-KARE NI ATCHING LENI, MECHADO, GUINATAANG MAIS, GUIA'S ILO-ILO RICE PUTO; CRISPY KANGKONG WITH 3 DIPS; UKOY ESPESYAL. **P1,800. BY SYLVIA**

NOV. 11 - FRI- 2:30 - 6:30PM - LEARN BREADBAKING FROM FRENCH BAKER'S JOHNLU KOA & SYLVIA. P1,800 BAGUIO'S FAMOUS RAISIN BREAD, AMERICAN TASTY, HONEY BREAD, BUTTER BREAD, BRAIDED CHEESE BREAD, MORELLA & ERNEST BIG PANDESAL, SUPERSOFT CARMELITE BREAD IN A BUNDT PAN. DELICIOUS BREAD MADE EASY!

NOV. 12- SAT- 2:30 - 6:15PM - CHRISTMAS STUFFED ROAST MAGNOLIA JUMBO CHICKEN OR ROAST BUTTERBALL TURKEY WITH HAM - RAISIN STUFFING & GRAVY - WHITE FRUITCAKE, RIBBON PASTA WITH WILD MUSHROOM TRIFOLATI, DELICIOUS CHICKEN PILAF WITH OLIVES. CENTURY TUNA FISHCAKES WITH BACON SPINACH SIDINGS AND CARAMELIZED ONIONS, BAKED BLUEBERRY CHEESECAKE **P1,800 BY ERNEST**

NOV. 14 MON 2:30 - 6:00PM - PORK GRILLING, SIZZLING, FRYING! BEST SELLERS! SISIG - CAPAMPANGAN. SIZZLING TADYANG NG BAKA, NEW BONELESS MAGNOLIA CHICKEN FILLET BBQ ON STICKS, KWEK-KWEK (COATED QUAIL EGGS ON STICKS WITH SWEET AND SOUR SAUCE). CRISPY BUCHI ASADO PAO. **P1,800. BY ERNEST**

NOV 16 WED 2:30 - 5:30PM - RESTAURANT RECIPES MADE EASY! SPICY BUFFALO WINGS WITH GARLIC DIP; MONTEREY ROAST BEEF SLICES ON FRENCHBAKER'S CIABATTA BREAD WITH MOZZARELLA CHEESE, TOMATO-BASIL; BRITISH SHEPHERD'S PIE IN SMALL CONTAINERS(RAMIKENS); MONTEREY PORK TENDERLOIN STICKS IN HOT CHILI SATAY SAUCE. LINGUINE PASTA WITH CRAB FAT AND ROASTED BELL PEPPERS. **P1,800. BY ERNEST**

NOV 17 THURS 2:30 - 6:00PM - MERIENDA FARE, DELICIOUS PANCIT PALABOK. LUMPIANG UBOD WITH HOMEMADE EGG WRAPPER; FRIED WANTON WITH SWEET AND SOUR SAUCE; MAGNOLIA HOMEMADE UBE WRAPPER FOR LUMPIA; FRIED LUMPIANG SHANGHAI, MINI FRUITCAKE BARS, SARAP BAKED COCOROONS **P1,800. BY SYLVIA**

NOV 19 - SAT - 1:00 - 4:30PM - FREE COOKING AND BAKING DEMO BY MORELLA, ERNEST, SYLVIA AT THE SAN MIGUEL HEAD OFFICE CAFETERIA, SAN MIGUEL AVENUE, MANDALUYONG. (ENTRANCE ACROSS SM MEGAMALL). FOR INQUIRIES CALL 671-9876 LOC. 2771, 402, 404 AND 405

NOV 21 MON - 2:30 - 6:15PM - MULTILAYERED, FLAKIEST CROISSANTS, PUFF PASTRY MEAT FILLED TURN OVERS, ASSORTED GLAZED DANISH PASTRIES. P1,800. BY MORELLA

NOV 22 TUES - 2:30 - 6:00PM BEST SELLER OVEN- BAKED CHICKEN PIES IN MUFFINCUPS: FLAKY EMPANADA; MELTS-IN-THE-MOUTH MAMON; MAGNOLIA GOLD BUTTER SLICES; PUTOPAO. BONUS RECIPES OF MACAROONS; PUTO FLOUR & TRI-COLORED PUTO **P1,800. BY MORELLA**

NOV 23 WED 2:30 -6:00PM - THE LATEST MONEY MAKING HOTEL & BAKESHOP BESTSELLERS! CHOCO LAVA CAKES (CHOCO CENTERS WILL OOZE OUT), "TARTUFO" (ITALIAN DOME CHOCOLATE COVERED ICE CREAM CAKE WITH CHOCO CAKE BASE - CAN BE FROZEN FOR A MONTH OR MORE), CREAM PUFFS WITH BAVARIAN & CHOCO FILLING WITH 2 GLAZES; THE YUMMIEST OF NEW YORK RESTAURANT SCHOOL CHEF INSTRUCTRESS **LORRIE REYNOSO'S BAKED CHEESE CAKE. P1,800. BY MORELLA**

NOV 24 THURS 2:30 - 6:00PM - SOFTEST DOUGNUTS FOR BUSINESS! NO OVEN NOR SPECIAL EQUIPMENT NEEDED. INCLUDES CHOCOLATE AND MARBLED DOUGHNUTS WITH SEVERAL FILLINGS; ICING, DIPS. PLUS BONUS RECIPES OF THICK SPANISH CHOCOLATE AND CHURROS. **P1,800. BY MORELLA**

NOV 25 FRI 2:30 - 6:00PM - UBE CHIFFON CAKE; ROCKY ROAD. MOIST CHOCOLATE CAKE, FOOD FOR THE GODS AND WALNUT BROWNIES. PLUS TIPS ON CONVERTING CAKES INTO JELLY ROLLS AND MUFFINS. DELICIOUS CAKES SOLD IN TOP BAKESHOPS! ALL CAKES WITH DIFFERENT ICINGS! **P1,800. BY MORELLA**

NOV 26 SAT 2:30 - 6:00PM REYNOSO - GALA & ARAULLO KAKANINI MELTS IN THE MOUTH SPECIAL RICE BIBINGKA; SAPIN SAPIN ESPESYAL; DELICIOUS, EASY TO MAKE RICE SUMAN; HOMEMADE HOPIA WITH MONGO OR UBE FILLING. BONUS RECIPE: APONG METYANG'S CASSAVE CAKE **P1,800. BY MORELLA**

NOV 27 SUN 2:30 - 6:00PM MONEY MAKING FAST FOOD CART SPECIALTIES BY MORELLA. DELICIOUS CORN DOGS, WAFFLE WITH HOMEMADE CHOCOLATE / CARAMEL; NACHOS "TOPOTOS" WITH MONTEREY MEAT FILLING AND CHEESE DIP. HOMEMADE SHAWARMA WRAP WITH BEEF FILLING AND CHEESE DIP. **P1,800.**

NOV 28 MON 2:30 - 5:30PM - MONEY MAKING FAST FOOD RECIPES!YUMMY CHICKEN INASAL, S & R STYLE HERBED ROASTED MAGNOLIA CHICKEN, CAJUN BURGERS WITH SPECIAL SAUCE, SPICY MAGNOLIA CHICKEN BURGERS, BAKED POTATO CHIP MAGNOLIA CHICKEN BREASTS WITH PESTO LINGUINNE **P1,800. BY ERNEST**

NOV 30 WED 2:30 - 5:30PM - DELICIOUS RESTAURANT SPECIALTIES YOU WILL LOVE TO DO AT HOME! - GARLIC - ROASTED MAGNOLIA CHICKEN WITH PEPPER CHICKEN WITH PEPPER STEAK SAUCE. MONTEREY BEEF TENDERLOIN CUBES SALPICADO. FETTUCINE WITH 3 DIFFERENT SAUCES: PESTO (GARLIC BASIL), BLACK SQUID INK, CREAMY MAYO CHEESE. HIGHLANDS SALAD WITH OLIVES AND BLUE CHEESE DRESSINGS. HOT CARAMEL BANANA FUDGE BROWNIE PIE WITH CREAM. PLUS BONUS RECIPES OF CENTURY TUNA BURGERS, BEEF BURGERS WITH DIFFERENT DRESSINGS. **P1,800. BY ERNEST**

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Two new soy products

TWO NEW PRODUCTS HAVE BEEN added to to the Kikkoman Teriyaki family—Kikkoman Teriyaki Marinade and Sauce with Roasted Garlic and Kikkoman Teriyaki Baste and Glaze.

Kikkoman Teriyaki Marinade and Sauce with Roasted Garlic may be used as a marinade or basting sauce for poultry, meat, burgers, seafood and vegetables. Just brush it on to food before and during grilling, roasting or broiling for a distinctive garlic flavor and mouthwatering aroma. The sauce has real garlic bits making it suitable for stir-frying and dipping.

New Kikkoman Teriyaki Baste and Glaze enhances the flavor of barbecues and grills. Brush it onto food during cooking, right after it comes off the grill or out of the oven for a lustrous and appetizing finish. It can also be used as a marinade to add zing to favorite dishes.

Kikkoman Teriyaki Sauces are easy to prepare. Like the Kikkoman Soy Sauce, they are made from the finest soybeans and wheat. They are guaranteed to have no artificial flavors, colors and MSG (monosodium glutamate or *vetsin*).

Kikkoman Teriyaki Sauces are available in leading supermarkets nationwide.